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A Proposal

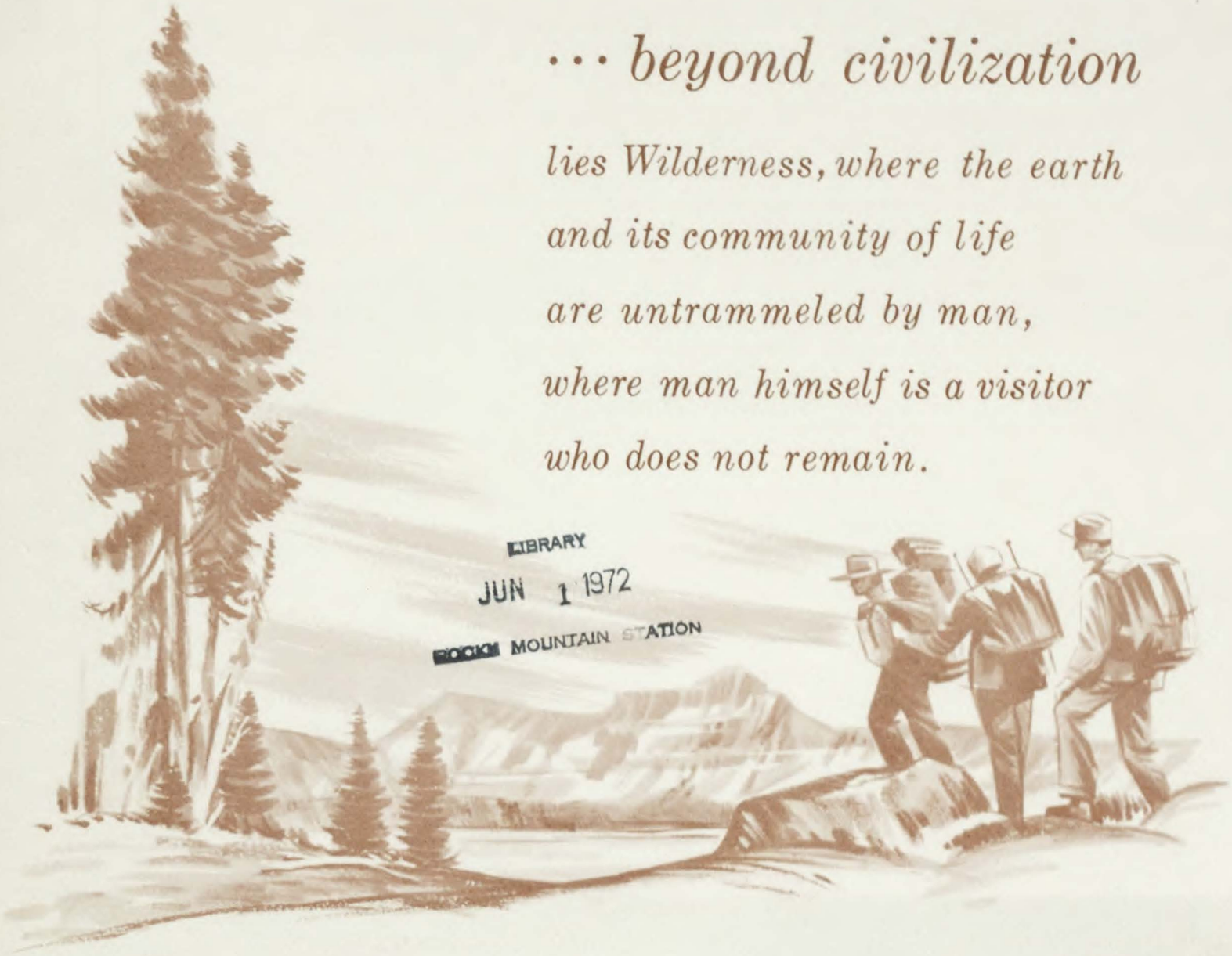
Blue Range Wilderness

Apache National Forest

ARIZONA and NEW MEXICO

· · · beyond civilization

lies Wilderness, where the earth
and its community of life
are untrammeled by man,
where man himself is a visitor
who does not remain.



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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

FOREST SERVICE

A Report on the Suitability of Certain National Forest Lands for Preservation as Wilderness

The Wilderness Act (Public Law 88-577) signed by the President on September 3, 1964, requires that:

> *The Secretary of Agriculture shall, within ten years after the enactment of this Act, review, as to its suitability or nonsuitability for preservation as wilderness, each area in the national forests classified on the effective date of this Act by the Secretary of Agriculture or the Chief of the Forest Service as 'primitive' and report his findings to the President. The President shall advise the United States Senate and House of Representatives of his recommendations with respect to the designation as 'wilderness' or other reclassification of each area on which review has been completed, together with maps and a definition of boundaries.*

The described review and action is required on the 5,477,740 acres included in the 34 Primitive Areas that were in existence when the Wilderness Act was signed. Similar action may also be required on other areas proposed for wilderness that are not Primitive Areas.

The following report describes an area that has been studied by the Department of Agriculture to determine its suitability for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Similar reports will be prepared for each of the 34 Primitive Areas and for other National Forest areas on which studies have been made.

PROPOSED

BLUE RANGE WILDERNESS

ARIZONA AND NEW MEXICO

Recommended By:

Edward P. Cliff
(Chief, U.S. Forest Service)

May 24, 1971
(Date)

Report Approved:

Clifford M. Hardin
(Secretary of Agriculture)

June 10, 1971
(Date)

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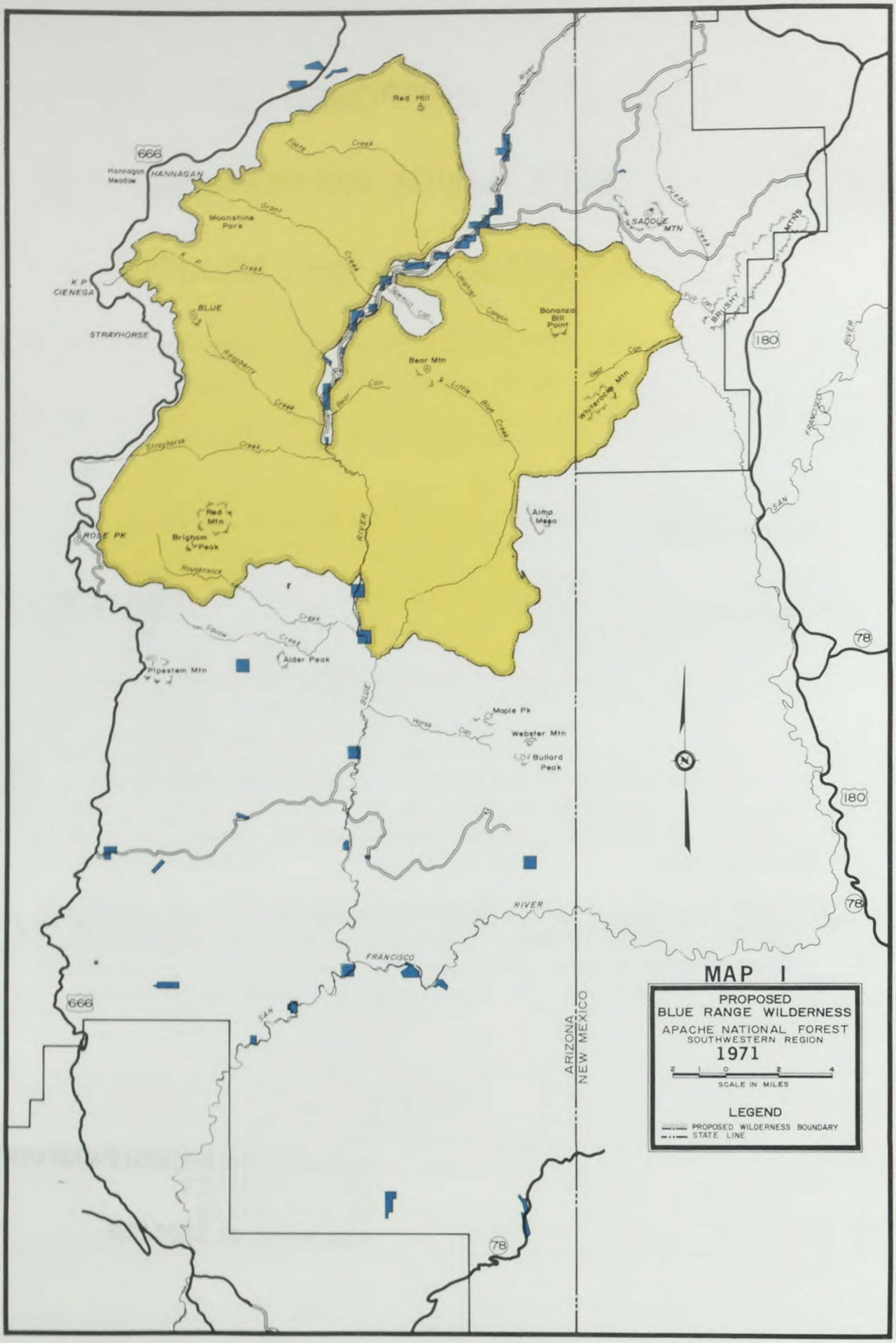
Red Hill
666
Hannagan Meadow
HANNAGAN
Moonshine Park
Grant Creek
K P Creek
K P CIENEGA
BLUE
STRAYHORSE
Raspberry Creek
Strayhorse Creek
Red Mtn
Brigham Peak
ROSE PK
Houseroot Creek
Blue Creek
Pipestem Mtn
Alder Peak
Sawmill Can
Bear Can
Bear Mtn
Little Blue Creek
Longley Canyon
Bonanza Bill Point
Whiterock Mtn
Sheep Can
Alma Mesa
SAGOLE MTN
Prieto Creek
BRUSHY MTNS
Pine Can
180
78
SAN FRANCISCO RIVER
Maple Pk
Horse Can
Webster Mtn
Bullard Peak
ARIZONA
NEW MEXICO
MAP I
PROPOSED
BLUE RANGE WILDERNESS
APACHE NATIONAL FOREST
SOUTHWESTERN REGION
1971
2 1 0 2 4
SCALE IN MILES
LEGEND
PROPOSED WILDERNESS BOUNDARY
STATE LINE

Report on the Proposed

Blue Range Wilderness

Apache National Forest **Arizona and New Mexico**

Recommendation

This proposal recommends that 157,208 acres of the Blue Range Primitive Area and 20,031 acres of contiguous lands in the Apache National Forest, States of Arizona and New Mexico, be designated as Wilderness by an Act of Congress, and added to the National Wilderness Preservation System. The designated area would be called the Blue Range Wilderness, Apache National Forest, and would be administered in accordance with all provisions of the Wilderness Act, Public Law 88-577, dated September 3, 1964, and the Regulations of the Secretary of Agriculture, Title 36 C.F.R. 251.70-251.84.

It is further recommended that Primitive Area classification be lifted from five tracts of land covering 53,102 acres now included within the Blue Range Primitive Area.

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Forest Service

Southwestern Region **Albuquerque, New Mexico**

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SUMMARY

This proposal is the result of field studies by the Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and from consideration of recommendations made by interested groups and individuals at public hearings held December 19, 1969, at Reserve, New Mexico, and December 20, 1969, at Springerville, Arizona. Recommendations from other government agencies were also considered.

Location

The proposed Blue Range Wilderness is located in the Blue Range of east-central Arizona, approximately 30 miles southeast of Springerville, Arizona, and 65 miles northwest of Silver City, New Mexico. The famous Mogollon Rim crosses the area from west to east. The Rim is cut by the Blue River and its spectacular canyon. The area is accessible by secondary roads from U.S. Highways 180 on the north, 666 on the south and west, and 260 on the east.

In the proposed Blue Range Wilderness there is rugged scenic beauty, a wide range of vegetation types, wildlife for hunting and viewing, and solitude for those who seek it.

Natural Resources

Here in the "Blue," a pleasing mix of all the resources combine to make the area outstanding as a wilderness where the mark of man and his activities is relatively obscure. A visitor can virtually isolate himself from the stresses of modern civilization and gain spiritual refreshment through self-evaluation. The deep, rugged canyons, steep timbered ridges, the sweeping reaches of stark, broken country, the solitude and a sense of being close to creation make this area unique in its setting.

Less than one-third of the area supports commercial timber stands, whose total volume is about 318,600 MBF. Of the area, about 30,500 acres are considered operable and contain a volume of about 215,320 MBF of commercial sawtimber. Pinyon-juniper stands and chaparral cover about 89,000 acres, and another 10,000 acres are grasslands. Principal tree species are ponderosa pine, white fir, Douglas-fir, and Engelmann spruce. Aspen occurs in scattered patches over the higher elevations. Oak, cottonwood, sycamore, alder, and black walnut follow watercourses in the lower elevations.

Forage values are significant over much of the area, both for wildlife and domestic livestock. Many livestock are permitted to graze in the lower areas on a yearlong basis, while higher areas are restricted to summer use seasons. The area provides habitat for mule deer, white-tailed deer, elk, javelina, bear, mountain lion, bobcat, and a great variety of smaller mammals and birds. A rare and endangered trout species inhabits some of the small perennial streams above the Rim.

A stable supply of high quality water, though limited in quantity, is an important product of the proposed Wilderness. This would remain essentially unchanged under wilderness classification. Except for small earthen stock tanks, there are no water storage reservoirs within the area, and no plans for such projects are known at this time.

Distinguishing Characteristics

The proposed Wilderness offers a variety of wilderness characteristics and attributes, including outstanding scenery, broad expanses of conifer forests, spectacular rock formations, and a wide range of ecological zones from the semi-desert in the rough, broken country below the Rim to the typical high mountain conditions common above the Rim. It is well suited for Wilderness, and except for trails, helispots, and range improvement structures, there is little evidence of man's activity over much of the area.

The area proposed as Wilderness contains the eastern end of the Mogollon Rim, which was made famous in Zane Grey's writings as the "Tonto Rim." The uniqueness of this Rim, from a geological and ecological standpoint, is further enhanced by the spectacular Blue River Canyon and the Blue River itself. Elevations range from 4,500 feet to 9,100 feet.

The summers are relatively cool and moist, preceded and followed by hot and dry spring and fall seasons. Winters are severe above the Rim with heavy snow accumulations.

Proximity to Population and to Other Wilderness

The proposed Wilderness is relatively close to almost three million people and such major southwestern cities as Phoenix and Tucson, Arizona, Albuquerque, New Mexico, and El Paso, Texas.

New Mexico contains five Wildernesses, covering 679,436 acres and two other Primitive Areas covering 299,993 acres. The largest of these, and the first Wilderness ever classified, is the 433,690 acre Gila Wilderness. The Gila Wilderness and the Gila Primitive Area are about 17 air miles away. Arizona now has six Wildernesses covering 427,796 acres and two other Primitive Areas covering about 65,969 acres. The largest Wilderness in Arizona is the 205,137-acre Mazatzal Wilderness. The nearest Wilderness in Arizona is the newly classified Mr. Baldy Wilderness, which is about 25 miles to the northwest.

Acreage Summary

Blue Range Primitive Area		210,310*
Additions A, B	20,031	
Exclusions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	53,102	
Net Change		-33,071
		177,239

* Computed acreage of Primitive Area revised from 216,737 to 210,310 by the use of more accurate base maps.

THE AREA

General Description

The Blue Range Primitive Area was established by the Chief, Forest Service, on June 21, 1933, under Regulation L-20. To meet the criteria of the Wilderness Act, certain boundary adjustments are necessary. Appendix A gives a detailed description of the recommended boundary. This boundary is also shown on the map on page ii. The types of adjustments and acreages are tabulated in Table I below.

The existing Blue Range Primitive Area lies within the Apache and the Gila National Forests in Arizona and New Mexico. There are 163,751 acres of the proposed Wilderness in Arizona and 13,488 acres in New Mexico. As recommended, the Wilderness would be wholly on the Apache National Forest.

TABLE I

	Private	Acres N.F.	Total
* Present Blue Range Primitive Area	1,400	210,310	211,710
** Corrected Blue Range Primitive Area	1,338	210,310	211,648
Additions			
A	0	16,776	16,776
B	0	3,255	3,255
Plus Total Additions	0	20,031	20,031
Exclusions			
No. 1	1,002	4,205	5,207
No. 2	0	29,443	29,443
No. 3	0	4,851	4,851
No. 4	336	11,844	12,180
No. 5	0	2,759	2,759
Minus Total Exclusions	1,338	53,102	54,440
Area of proposed Blue Range Wilderness	0	177,239	177,239

* Acres as shown in the President's Sixth Annual National Wilderness Preservation System Report, August 5, 1970

** Corrected as to private land, apparently the difference is in inclusion of a forty-acre tract near Blue P. O. Also, corrected for 22.60 acres recently acquired by exchange.

Recommended Wilderness by Districts

Black River Ranger District	90,363
Clifton Ranger District	73,388
Luna Ranger District	13,488

Recommended Wilderness by States

Arizona	163,751
New Mexico	13,488

The area is located approximately 23 miles north of Clifton, Arizona, and 30 miles south of Springerville, Arizona. Access to the area from the north is by U.S. Highways 180 and 666 and Forest Development Roads 281, 285.6, and 287 into the upper Blue River. Access from the south is via the Coronado Trail (U.S. Highway 666) and Forest Development Road 475.

The proposed Wilderness would be the second largest in the State of Arizona. The Mazatzal Wilderness on the Tonto National Forest, approximately 100 miles to the west, would be larger. The Blue River drains nearly all the proposed Wilderness, except for a small area in New Mexico which drains into the San Francisco River.

The recommended Wilderness has been designed to include land of high wilderness quality within well-defined boundaries.

Soils vary from deep alluvial loams derived from basaltic parent materials in river bottoms to thin gravelly and rocky clay soils on the ridges. Soils at the lower elevations are subject to mass runoff and suffer from extensive erosion. All the bottom land along the Blue River shows evidence of periodic heavy flooding.

Average annual precipitation varies from 15 inches at lower elevations to over 30 inches at the higher elevations on the Blue Range.

Principal Topographic and Scenic Features

The area is traversed from the east to west by the Mogollon Rim, an abrupt escarpment forming the southern boundary of the Colorado Plateau. Above the Rim, vegetative cover types are largely mixed conifer and spruce-fir timber. Below the Rim, a wild and broken country predominates, containing some ponderosa pine, with pinyon-juniper and grassland types in the lower reaches. The Blue River, flowing from north to south, breaks the Mogollon Rim about midway in the area.

Elevations range from 4,500 feet on the south to 9,100 feet on the Blue Range to the north. The Blue Range itself is rolling on top, breaking off into rough, precipitous canyons around the outer rim. The Blue River breaks are chopped up and rough, with many rim-rock canyons and broad expanses of surface rock outcrops. The southern edge of the Blue Range breaks off sharply on the Mogollon Rim. Much of the area in lower Blue River Canyon is very rough and steep.

Unusual and spectacular rock formations are common throughout the area. The "box" canyons of the Blue and Little Blue Rivers are unique. The several small perennial streams tributary to the Blue River are quite scenic and provide a rare opportunity for fishermen to enjoy angling in a primitive setting. Along the west side of the area, elevation changes rapidly and numerous cliffs and escarpments are found. The red conglomerate weathers to spectacular formations. White volcanic rock is common in the southwestern portion of the area. Sawed Off Mountain is unique in its structure and serves as a prominent landmark. There are several dry lake beds in the proposed area, probably evidence of old volcanic "sinks."

Climate

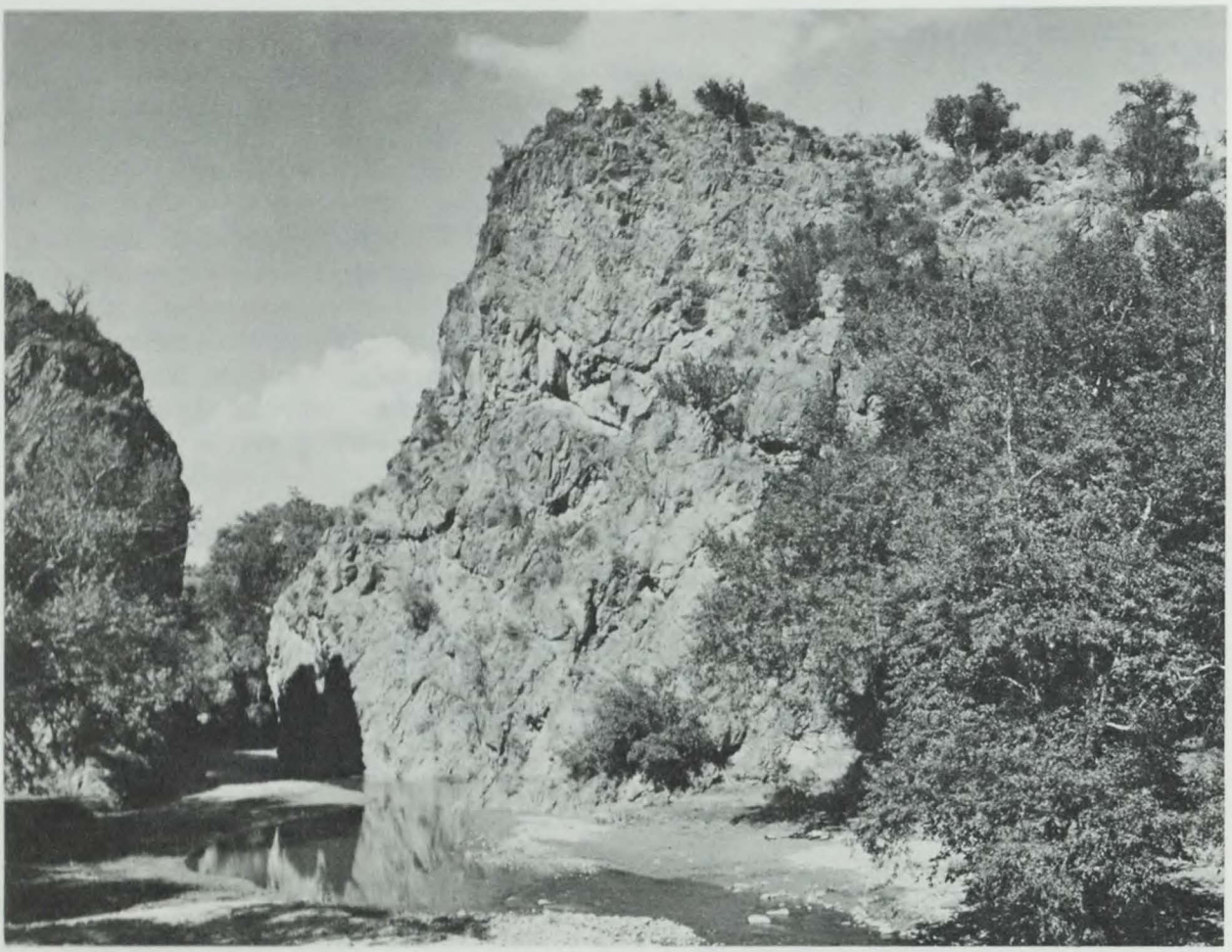
Summertime maximum daytime temperatures range from the low 100's in the lower elevations in the pinyon-juniper and grass types to the mid 80's in the area above the Rim. Wintertime minima vary from the 20's in the lower reaches to 30 degrees below zero in the upper area.

The area is normally dry from April to early July and from September to the first snow of late fall. Violent and severe thunderstorms are common in July and August. Snow is likely over much of the area from early November through March, with accumulations of 4 to 6 feet in the high country.

RESOURCES

Wilderness

For those willing to pit themselves against nature, the proposed Wilderness offers an opportunity to test personal skills in a variety of surroundings. The area covers a wide range of topographic, geologic, and ecological zones, with each unique in its own way. The solitude is outstanding. A visitor may spend from a few hours to several weeks in the area with little chance of seeing another person. The natural beauty, the wildlife, the various ground cover types, prehistoric Indian ruins, small perennial streams, natural springs, narrow passage-like canyons, the spectacular red conglomerate formations, and remoteness blend together in a portion of Zane Grey's famous "Tonto Rim" to offer a unique Wilderness experience to the visitor. The area is accessible by a network of trails, only a portion of which has been maintained through the years. The principal trails for access above the Rim are Foote Creek, Grant Creek, Steeple Mesa, Lanphier, Hinkle Spring, and Largo. Trails below the Mogollon Rim are Strayhorse Canyon, AD Bar, Alma, and Little Blue Creek.



One of the many rocky "boxes" through which the Blue River flows in the proposed Wilderness.

Recreation

The proposed Wilderness is within a day's drive of approximately three million people, the majority being from major population centers such as Phoenix, Tucson, Albuquerque, and El Paso.

As shown by the vicinity map in the front of this report, the proposed Wilderness is located midway along the boundary between Arizona and New Mexico. Use of the area for recreation is comparatively light at present, but will increase as other nonwilderness lands become overcrowded and as the population increases. The area is bounded by roads, and is partially bisected by the upper Blue River road. Numerous trails leave these roads making access for hikers or riders fairly easy. There are, however, few trailhead facilities for recreationists.

Estimated recreation use in 1969 on the existing Primitive Area was:

ACTIVITY	VISITS	VISITOR DAYS
Hiking	70	500
Horseback Riding	100	700
Fishing	50	200
Camping	400	3,900
Hunting (All kinds)	600	9,300
*All Other	1,980	3,700
	3,200	18,300

* Includes such miscellaneous activities as picnicking, nature study, enjoying scenery, etc.

The publicity from the Wilderness proposal has resulted in a considerable increase in recreation use. Most use has been made by hunters, which includes big and small game and some bird hunting. Lion and bear hunting is popular, as is hunting for elk and deer. Camping and picnicking is popular along the upper Blue River in the area accessible by the road. Little camping and picnicking takes place in the interior of the area, except as a part of some other activity such as hunting. Equal in value to the primitive environment is the good quality hunting available. At the present time, there are several packers and outfitters serving the area.

The potential for development for general public outdoor recreation use is not high. Access is difficult and development sites are limited in size and number by the topography, cover, and lack of natural water. On the other hand, the whole area is attractive and suited to unconfined, dispersed, "back-country" kinds of recreation use. Classification as Wilderness would remove no tangible recreation opportunities, and would enhance use of the generally undeveloped area.

Wildlife

The diversified topography, elevation, and vegetation provide an environment favorable to a large variety of wildlife species. Big game include Rocky Mountain mule deer, Coues' white-tailed deer, and Nelson's elk. Prior to 1930, white-tailed deer were considerably more numerous than were mule deer. A gradual shift in the population balance has occurred since that time, and mule deer now dominate by a ratio estimated at 4 to 1. The exact reason for this switch is now known, but white-tailed populations now appear to be reasonably stable.

Gambel's, scaled, and Mearn's quail, together with turkey, are the principal upland game birds. Some blue grouse occur in the extreme upper zones, around 9,000 feet. Turkey populations are highest during the winter months, although there are reisdent flocks in the area. Mourning dove and band-tailed pigeon are commonly observed in scattered locations. Band-tailed pigeon hunting was opened to the public in 1968 on a special permit basis.

Mountain lion and bear are common in the area, although neither is readily observed. Other predatory species include gray fox, badger, coyote, bobcat, and weasel.

Some of the local lion and bear hunters are well known for their abilities as guides. Hunting with hounds has long been a popular sport in the Blue Range Primitive Area, and has attracted many people from outside Arizona and New Mexico.

Other wildlife common to the area include javelina, beaver, muskrat, cottontail, skunk, tree squirrels, hawks, owls, vultures, crows, ravens, jays, and numerous species of song birds and small rodents. Three distinct species of tree squirrels occur, including the tassel-eared or Abert's, chickaree or pine squirrel, and the Arizona gray squirrel. The latter is found only in the creek bottoms due to its dependence on black walnuts, and the Blue River area is a very important segment of its restricted range.

Other species which occur or have a high probability of occurrence, and are classed as rare or endangered, include spotted owl, American peregrine falcon, black-eared bushtit, southern bald eagle, olive warbler, Arizona woodpecker, aplomado falcon, spotted bat, dwarf shrew, and kit fox. Efforts are being made to learn more about these species, their habitat needs, and protective measures. Management of these species is not expected to conflict with wilderness objectives or requirements.

Limited rainbow trout fishing is available in the higher tributaries to the upper Blue River. Water temperatures and competition from rough fish make lower streams and the river marginal trout habitat. Grant and K. P. Creeks, which are primary tributaries into the Blue, originally contained a pure strain of the Arizona (Apache) trout, which is now classed as an endangered species. Within the past 30 years, rainbow trout have invaded native trout waters resulting in a crossed strain. The Arizona Game and Fish Department has removed rough fish populations in Grant and K. P. Creeks. The pure strain of Apache native trout was then reestablished in both creeks. Natural barriers in the streams will generally control distribution of fish species.

Water

The Blue River drains into the San Francisco River a few miles northeast of Clifton, Arizona. The San Francisco is a major tributary of the Gila River, and the water eventually flows to San Carlos Reservoir behind Coolidge Dam, where it is stored for irrigation. Irrigation on the patented lands along the Blue River and on the San Francisco River within the Forest boundary is of only minor importance, but the approximate 11,000 acre feet of runoff that comes annually from the Primitive Area has great downstream value.

Precipitation averages about 15 inches annually over the lower Blue River. Most of this falls during severe summer thunderstorms. Over 30 inches is received above the Mogollon Rim. About half of this falls as snow, and the rest during summer rainstorms.

Large areas of bare rock, areas of thin soil, and steep barren slopes regularly produce flash floods. Due to a general lack of ground cover, large silt loads are carried and deposited in the Blue River itself. Of the area proposed for Wilderness, there are about 125,000 acres that could be treated for sediment reduction. Such treatment would retain an estimated 40,000 tons of sediment per year, which is now carried off the area. Water quality is correspondingly low during peak flow, although normal runoff from areas such as Grant and K. P. Creeks is of high quality. Proper Wilderness management should lessen the need for treatment.

Water yield could be increased on about 45,000 acres of the area proposed for Wilderness by mechanical treatment or by type-conversion work to yield an estimated average annual increase of 2,500-acre feet of water. Since improvement of watershed conditions, with a corresponding increase in yield, on the majority of the area must be through natural processes, classification as Wilderness will not adversely affect the recovery and production.

Minerals

There is no history of mining within the proposed Wilderness, but there has been a rush of copper claim staking activity in the last few years on both sides of Blue River in the southern end of the present Primitive Area and in the vicinity of Tornado Canyon. There are no mining camps anywhere within the area.

An on-the-ground mineral examination of the proposed Wilderness and the proposed exclusions was completed in 1968 by the U.S. Geological Survey. Their report, which is part of the Public Record, indicated the possibility of deep lying ore bodies in parts of the area. The report summary is quoted:

> The Blue Range primitive area comprises about 380 square miles in southeastern Arizona and southwestern New Mexico. Elevations in this mountainous region range from about 4,500 feet at the level of the Blue River to nearly 9,400 feet on the high rim west of the river.
>
> Rocks within and adjacent to the Primitive Area consist entirely of volcanic rocks or clastic sedimentary rocks derived almost entirely from volcanic sources. A thickness of about 5,000 feet of these rocks is exposed. They are mainly Oligocene and late Miocene in age, but some are of Pliocene age or younger. The rocks are highly faulted, and the major faults define sets that trend northeast, northwest, and approximately west. The northeast-trending faults are part of a fault system 15-30 miles wide that extends 70 miles or more from the vicinity of Clifton and Morenci, Arizona, to Apache Creek, New Mexico. This fault system is athwart the prevailing northwest trend of faults and rock units in southeastern Arizona and southwestern New Mexico.
>
> The mineral-resource potential of the area was appraised by means of geologic mapping, geochemical sampling, an aeromagnetic survey, and close examination of all mining claims and areas of mineralized or altered rocks. Approximately 700 stream sediment samples were taken, including about 60 pan concentrates and 225 samples of unaltered, altered, and mineralized rocks.

No evidence of potential mineral resources was found in more than 90 percent of the primitive area. Hydrothermal alteration and low-level geochemical anomalies in the Red Mountain-Oak Creek and the Squaw Creek-Maple Canyon areas, however, indicate that they may contain ore deposits at greater depth. Of the two, available evidence indicates that the Squaw Creek-Maple Canyon area has the greater mineral potential, particularly for molybdenum and copper. A positive aeromagnetic anomaly near the south edge of the primitive area and in the western part of the Squaw Creek-Maple Canyon area is similar to anomalies in other parts of western United States that are known to be caused by buried intrusive igneous rocks, some of which have ore deposits associated with them. A thorough assessment of the mineral potential at depth in the Squaw Creek-Maple Canyon area would require exploratory drilling that is beyond the scope of this investigation.

The likelihood of mineral-fuel deposits in the area is slight. Presence of materials such as coal, oil, oilshale, or natural gas would depend on the presence of sedimentary rocks of Paleozoic or Mesozoic age beneath the Tertiary volcanic rocks. Although such prevolcanic sedimentary rocks may be present, they are inferred from indirect evidence to be thin, and because coal or oil bearing rocks are absent in adjacent areas, the potential for fossil fuels is considered to be low.

There are no mines in the primitive area and there is no record of mineral production from the area. No patented mining claims are in the area. Several groups of unpatented mining claims exist, but none show more than traces of metallic minerals.

Timber

There are four primary timber types within the proposed Wilderness:

Spruce-Fir occupies comparatively small areas at the higher elevation. It consists of nearly pure stands of Engelmann and blue spruce with a small amount of cork-bark fir. The timber is thrifty, all aged, and contains a volume per acre which is average for this kind of timber in the Southwest.

Mixed Conifer is found on a northern exposures at higher elevations. The type is a mixture of Douglas-fir, ponderosa pine, white fir, spruce, and aspen. Timber is thrifty, all aged, and has good to excellent reproduction.

Ponderosa Pine occupies the area between 6,000 and 8,000 feet elevation. On southern exposures, this type is found at somewhat higher elevations, and on northern exposures at lower elevations. It is typical of Southwestern conditions, consisting of pine stands on the better sites mixed with Douglas and white fir at the upper elevations and on northern exposures. At lower elevations, pine occurs in mixture with pinyon-juniper. Reproduction varies from excellent in all aged stands to scattered on the poorer sites.

Woodland is found at lower elevations and consists of a mixture of junipers and pinyon, several species of oak, with cottonwood, alder, sycamore, and Arizona black walnut along creek bottoms.

TABLE II

Operable Commercial Sawtimber Volumes

Aspen	3,587 MBF
Ponderosa Pine	60,217 MBF
Mixed Conifer	129,033 MBF
Spruce-Fir	26,070 MBF
	218,907 MBF

This volume would support an annual allowable harvest of 3,854 MBF. Denial of this volume to present timber processing plants will not cause undue hardship to the local economy.

Forage

When early settlers came to the Blue River, they found an area of mild climate which was ideal for grazing livestock. Cattle numbers built up quite rapidly. It is estimated that 20,000 to 25,000 head of cattle grazed in this area for a number of years.

After World War I, the efforts of livestock producers were directed toward beef production rather than animal production and livestock management was begun. Grazing allotments were fenced in the mid-1930's with emphasis on better land management practices.

All or portions of 17 grazing allotments are involved in the proposed Wilderness. The acreage of land actually used for grazing varies considerably between the allotments. Table III shows the grazing allotments and the estimated stocking of each in the area recommended for Wilderness. Browse ranges abound in the proposed Wilderness. Browse is the staple forage for livestock during the fall and winter grazing seasons.

There are 15 grazing permittees whose cattle use the 17 allotments. Of these, three families live yearlong within the Primitive Area, but outside the proposed Wilderness, along the upper Blue River. Most depend on their ranching income for livelihood. Some live as far away as Phoenix and Tucson, while others live in Clifton and Springerville.

Range analysis and wildlife studies reveal there is considerable competition for browse between cattle and big game, especially during winter months. This condition would exist with or without Wilderness designation. Future management objectives will be to reduce this conflict to the extent practical.

Large portions of the range allotments are unsuitable for grazing due to steep slopes, dense timber and brush stands, and rocky and barren areas. Some of the suitable range was excessively grazed in the past. Range condition varies considerably with the majority of the suitable range in fair to poor condition. Improper distribution is a major obstacle to good management.

Some opportunities exist to improve forage conditions through use of better range management grazing systems which are compatible with Wilderness.

Structures on the 17 grazing allotments wholly or partially within the proposed Wilderness consist of 138 miles of fence; 7 earthen stock tanks; 18 spring developments; 43 corrals; 5 cabins; 1.5 miles of water pipelines, and 4 fenced exclosures. Each existing and planned improvement will be carefully evaluated to determine its value for enhancing the Wilderness. Unnecessary improvements will be removed. Those which are essential but now incompatible will be reconstructed to make them more acceptable.

TABLE III
RANGE ALLOTMENTS IN ALL AREAS STUDIED FOR WILDERNESS DESIGNATION

	PERMITTED ON TOTAL ALLOTMENTS			GRAZING WITHIN PRESENT PRIMITIVE AREA			GRAZING WITHIN PROPOSED WILDERNESS		
Range Allotments	*Tot. Ctl. On Allot.*	*Permtd. Season*	*Animal Months*	*% in Area*	*Number Cattle*	*Animal Months*	*% in Prop. Wilderness*	*Number Cattle*	*Animal Months*
Pueblo	100	YL	1,200	23	23	276	7	7	84
Johnson Canyon	62	1/1-6/15 11/1-12/31	527	18	11	95	7	4	37
Bear Canyon	199	YL	2,388	90	179	2,149	40	80	955
Cow Flat	144	YL	1,728	100	144	1,728	98*	141	1,693
Red Hill	90	YL	1,080	80	72	864	80	72	864
Foote Creek	105	YL	1,260	44	46	554	43	45	542
Bob Cat	115	1/1-6/15 11/1-12/31	748	10	12	75	10	12	75
Whiterocks	68	YL	816	57	39	465	10	7	82
Fishhook	104	1/1-6/15 10/1-12/31	884	100	104	884	98*	102	886
Steeple Mesa+	139	1/1-6/15 10/1-12/31	570 612	100	139	1,192	98*	136	1,157
Hannagan	139	6/16-9/30	234	65	(90)	316	44	(61)	214
KP	86	YL	1,032	70	60	722	90	77	929
Strayhorse	200	YL	2,400	28	56	672	68	136	1,632
Raspberry	139	YL	1,668	100	139	1,668	99*	138	1,652
Alma Mesa	700	YL	8,400	75	525	6,300	60	420	5,040
Sandrock	542	YL	6,504	55	298	3,577	25	135	1,626
AD Bar	213	YL	2,556	7	15	179	-	-	-
Apache National Forest	3,006		34,859		1,862	21,716		1,512	17,448
Gila N.F. Alma Allot.	300	YL	3,600	10	30	360	4	12	144
GRAND TOTAL	3,306		38,459		1,892	22,076		1,524	17,592

* 100% within proposed wilderness except that area in Exclusion No. 1.

\+ Cattle grazed on Steeple Mesa are the same cattle grazed on Hannagan which are shown in brackets and counted only once.

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Structures and Activities

There are no recreation improvements within the proposed Wilderness, nor are any planned. Fire lookout towers are located on Bear Mountain and Blue Peak. These structures will be phased out as alternate detection methods become practical. There are 80 helispots in the proposed Wilderness and a network of 142 miles of trails serve the area. More trails may be needed in the future. These will be constructed to a standard compatible with Wilderness. Motorized vehicles have, in the past, invaded portions of the area proposed for Wilderness. Signs of this invasion along the Blue River have been partially obliterated by frequent flooding. Primitive bulldozer roads were built to the earthen stock tanks. These tracks are now nearly obscure and will become more so with time. Stock tanks are being and will continue to be maintained by a team of mules and plow and scraper. Structural range improvements are listed in the Forage Resource section. Essential improvements will be maintained as needed, and be made to become more compatible with the environment. Nonessential improvements will be removed. Cabins will be removed within 10 years after the area is classified as Wilderness.

Insects and Disease

There are no serious insect or disease conditions within the proposed Wilderness. Should any develop, they will be treated only if they seriously threaten values outside the Wilderness.

Fire

Within the proposed Wilderness, fuel types, topography, and general aspect are such that fires can become difficult to control in relatively short time. Because of difficult access and high potential for damage to important water producing areas, fires in the proposed Wilderness are subject to prompt helitack action. A helitack unit is stationed at Hannagan Administrative Site, near the west edge of the area, during the fire season.

A recent study of the value of the Blue and Bear Mountain Lookouts shows they are vital to fire control efforts in the area. They are needed for triangulation purposes with each other and five other lookouts outside the area, and for covering areas blind to other lookouts.

An average of 26.1 fires occur annually in the Blue Range Primitive Area, of which 24.5 are lightning and 1.6 man-caused. Proposed inclusions are low hazard areas, and occurrence is not expected to change materially in the area proposed for Wilderness. Scars from very old and large fires are evident over much of the area.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (Public Law 91-190, 83 Stat. 852) became effective January 1, 1970. Among the purposes of the Act were "encourage productive and enjoyable harmony between man and his environment; . . . prevent or eliminate damage to the environment . . .; to enrich the understanding of the ecological systems and natural resources . . ." The Council on Environmental Quality was also formed by the Act. It is the National policy that "before undertaking major action . . . that significantly affects the environment, Federal agencies will, in consultation with other appropriate Federal, state, and local agencies, assess in detail the potential environmental impact in order that adverse affects (sic.) are avoided, and environmental quality is restored or enhanced to the fullest extent practicable."

Since hearings were held and the record completed before requirements of the Act were known, it was necessary to reexamine the proposal in light of the Environmental Policy Act. A total of 35 Federal, state, and local agencies were contacted by letter or meeting, requesting analysis of the proposal to designate the area as Wilderness. Of the 22 responses, 14 felt that such action is favorable for preservation of a healthy environment; 5 believed the area should be declassified to allow commodity production and utilization, while 3 offered no comment.

Careful inventory, evaluation, and analysis of all resources of the area in question, coupled with a review by responsible people in various fields of environmental management, show that there will be no adverse impact upon the physical environment should the contemplated action be taken. The human environment conceivably would be adversely affected to some degree by denial of commodity utilization and development, and the associated economic gains to be realized from such resource consumption. This adverse economic effect is minor when compared with the benefits to the social environment, however, and wilderness classification is recommended.

PUBLIC REACTION

On October 14, 1969, a Public Notice was issued announcing the hearings on the Blue Range Wilderness Proposal. Interested parties were invited to submit either a written or oral statement. Two Public Hearings were held, one at Reserve, New Mexico, on December 19, 1969, and another at Springerville, Arizona, on December 20, 1969. The hearing record remained open for receipt of additional written statements through January 20, 1970.

The two days of hearings produced a 390-page record. One hundred and two persons made oral statements. Some submitted written statements for individuals not present. Included were the Forest Service, U.S. Geological Survey, Chambers of Commerce, timber companies, mining interests, livestockmen and farmers, state agencies, a power company, water users, local governments, and several conservation organizations. Statements were made by many persons as individuals.

Responses for inclusion in the hearing record received in the 30-day period following the hearings totaled 3,422 against and 1,600 in favor of the Blue Range Wilderness. Of these, 2,659 against and 22 of those in favor were Xeroxed or mimeographed form letters. Acknowledgement letters to the senders resulted in 132 letters being returned marked "addressee unknown," "no such address," "unclaimed," and "not at this address." Review of the responses showed that many individuals made more than one response to the Proposal. Most of the duplicates were form letters and petitions protesting the reclassification.

2. The Arizona Conservation Council and the Arizona Association of Landscape Architects accepted the Forest Service Proposal, except that they suggested retaining as Wilderness Sawmill Canyon, an area around Pueblo Canyon in Exclusion 2, and Exclusion 5. The Conservation Council represents 12 conservation organizations in the State of Arizona.

3. The Arizona Wildlife Federation accepted the Forest Service Proposal, except for wanting to retain the Sawmill Canyon portion of Exclusion 1 and Exclusion 5. They also advocated a full-length corridor along the Blue River, separating the proposed Wilderness into two units.

SUMMARY OF OPINION ANALYSIS

A. IN FAVOR OF A WILDERNESS

1. **FOREST SERVICE PROPOSAL**

Kind of Responses	*Arizona*	*New Mexico*	*Other States*	*Total*
Letters and Testimony	27	37	11	75

2. **WILDERNESS SOCIETY PROPOSAL**

Kind of Responses includes Form Letters, Letters, Petition Signatures, Resolutions, Telegrams, and Testimony	470	629	413	1,512

3. **"A WILDERNESS"** (PROPOSAL NOT SPECIFIED)

Kind of Responses are Letters and Telegrams	42	13	3	58

4. **OTHER PROPOSALS**

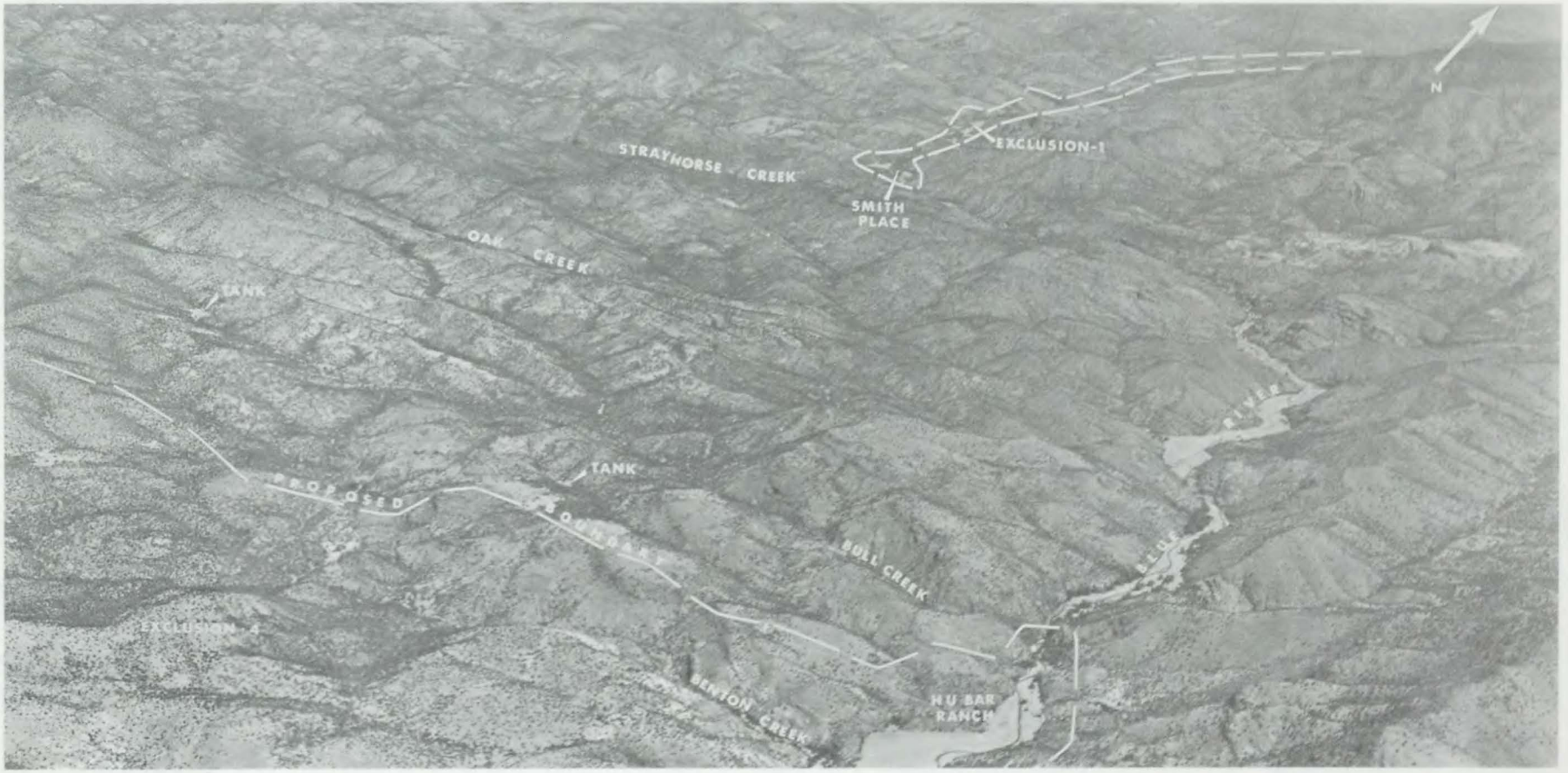
Kind of Responses are Letters and Testimony	9	5	1	15

B. AGAINST A WILDERNESS

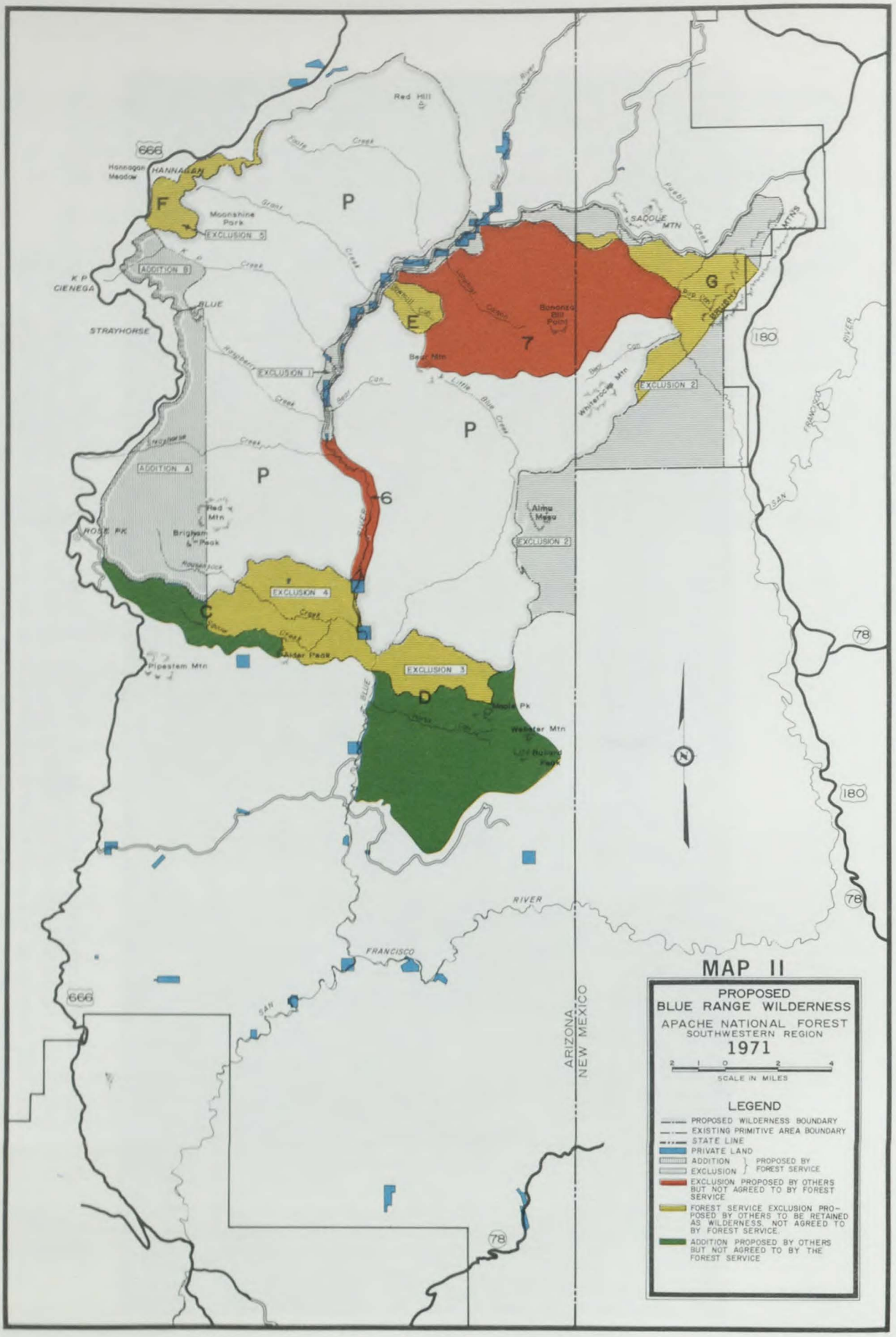
Kind of Responses includes Form Letters, Letters, Petition Signatures, Resolutions, and Testimony	2,468	959	69	3,496

C. NONCOMMITTAL

Kind of Response Letters	2	2	2	6
			TOTAL	5,162



Signs of man's activities are common in the proposed Exclusion #4 in the foreground. It contains three tracts of private land, one of which is the HU Bar Ranch. Splitting the proposed Wilderness into two parts by an exclusion to form a corridor along the entire length of the Blue River within the existing Primitive Area would not be in the best long range public interest.


MAP II
PROPOSED
BLUE RANGE WILDERNESS
APACHE NATIONAL FOREST
SOUTHWESTERN REGION
1971
SCALE IN MILES
LEGEND
PROPOSED WILDERNESS BOUNDARY
EXISTING PRIMITIVE AREA BOUNDARY
STATE LINE
PRIVATE LAND
ADDITION
EXCLUSION
PROPOSED BY FOREST SERVICE
EXCLUSION PROPOSED BY OTHERS BUT NOT AGREED TO BY FOREST SERVICE
FOREST SERVICE EXCLUSION PROPOSED BY OTHERS TO BE RETAINED AS WILDERNESS. NOT AGREED TO BY FOREST SERVICE.
ADDITION PROPOSED BY OTHERS BUT NOT AGREED TO BY THE FOREST SERVICE
ARIZONA
NEW MEXICO
ADDITION A
ADDITION B
EXCLUSION 1
EXCLUSION 2
EXCLUSION 3
EXCLUSION 4
EXCLUSION 5
HANNAGAN
STRAYHORSE
BLUE
SAN FRANCISCO RIVER
666
180
78

CONCLUSIONS

Wilderness was defined by Congress in Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act as ". . . an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammeled by man . . . an area of undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character . . ." and as an area which ". . . (1) generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable; (2) has outstanding opportunities for solitude . . ." Direction was given by Congress to the Secretary of Agriculture to study Primitive Areas for possible inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System or declassification. Section 3(b) states in part ". . . The Secretary of Agriculture shall . . . review, as to its suitability or nonsuitability for preservation as wilderness each area in the national forests classified . . . as 'primitive' . . ."

It was within this context that the Forest Service study was made. Conclusions were reached after full consideration of all comments made at public hearings on December 19 and 20, 1969, and submitted for the record in the weeks immediately following the hearings. Environmental considerations, based on other agency judgment and comment, were also carefully evaluated.

Areas Suitable for Wilderness

About 157,200 acres within this proposed Wilderness have been managed and used as the Blue Range Primitive Area since 1933. The studies of the Forest Service, the comments submitted by other agencies of Government, and comments made a part of the public hearing record, show that no reason has developed to discontinue wilderness-type management and use of this area. Rather, these studies and comments show that the boundaries should be adjusted to include contiguous areas which have the topographic character, vegetative cover, and remoteness which make them suitable for management as part of the proposed Wilderness.

The areas which the Forest Service initially proposed for Wilderness are shown on Map II on page 18. On this map, the Blue Range Primitive area is shown as "P." Portions labeled A and B are additions, and are fully suitable for classification as Wilderness.

The record shows some support for not including area 6 in this proposed Wilderness, in order to provide a corridor for road access along the Blue River. Such a road would have only limited value, unless enormous sums of money were expended on the short section, as well as on the several tens of miles of poor road on either end of the proposed corridor. Such a road would closely parallel the existing Coronado Trail (U.S. 666) which will be improved in the next several years. Topographic features and meteorological phenomena largely control the economics of such a road. The Blue River and its spectacular, often "box-like" canyon, is an integral part of the proposed Wilderness. Cleaving the proposed Wilderness by a corridor, as proposed, would not be in the best long-range public interest. Therefore, the Forest Service concluded that the area should be Wilderness.

Area 7 was recommended for exclusion by some of those who commented on the basis that the area is too valuable for its timber resource to be included in the proposed Wilderness. The Forest Service recognizes those timber values, but holds that this is overshadowed by the superlative wilderness quality of the area.

Areas Not Suitable for Wilderness

Many of those commenting upon the original Forest Service proposal favored establishing a Wilderness larger than the Forest Service recommended. They specifically advocated including Areas C, D, E, F, and G, as well as all or portions of Forest Service proposed Exclusions 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5.

Proposed Exclusion 1, in its 5,207-acre entirety, is unsuitable for Wilderness because of the large areas of highly developed private land, roads, and powerlines, with wood, fence post, and saw log cutting having been done over several portions of the area. Signs of the early cutting are still visible.

Much of the 29,443-acre area proposed as Exclusion 2 bears the unmistakable imprint of man's activities. Roads, ranching headquarters, and many structural range improvements, as well as areas where timber has been cut for various purposes invade the area in several places. Manmade structures are numerous.

Proposed Exclusion 3, which covers 4,851 acres, would eliminate land believed to be potentially valuable for minerals. There are many lode mining claims already located on it. Several actively eroding bulldozer roads are located here. The area varies little from the surrounding country which is not wilderness in character.

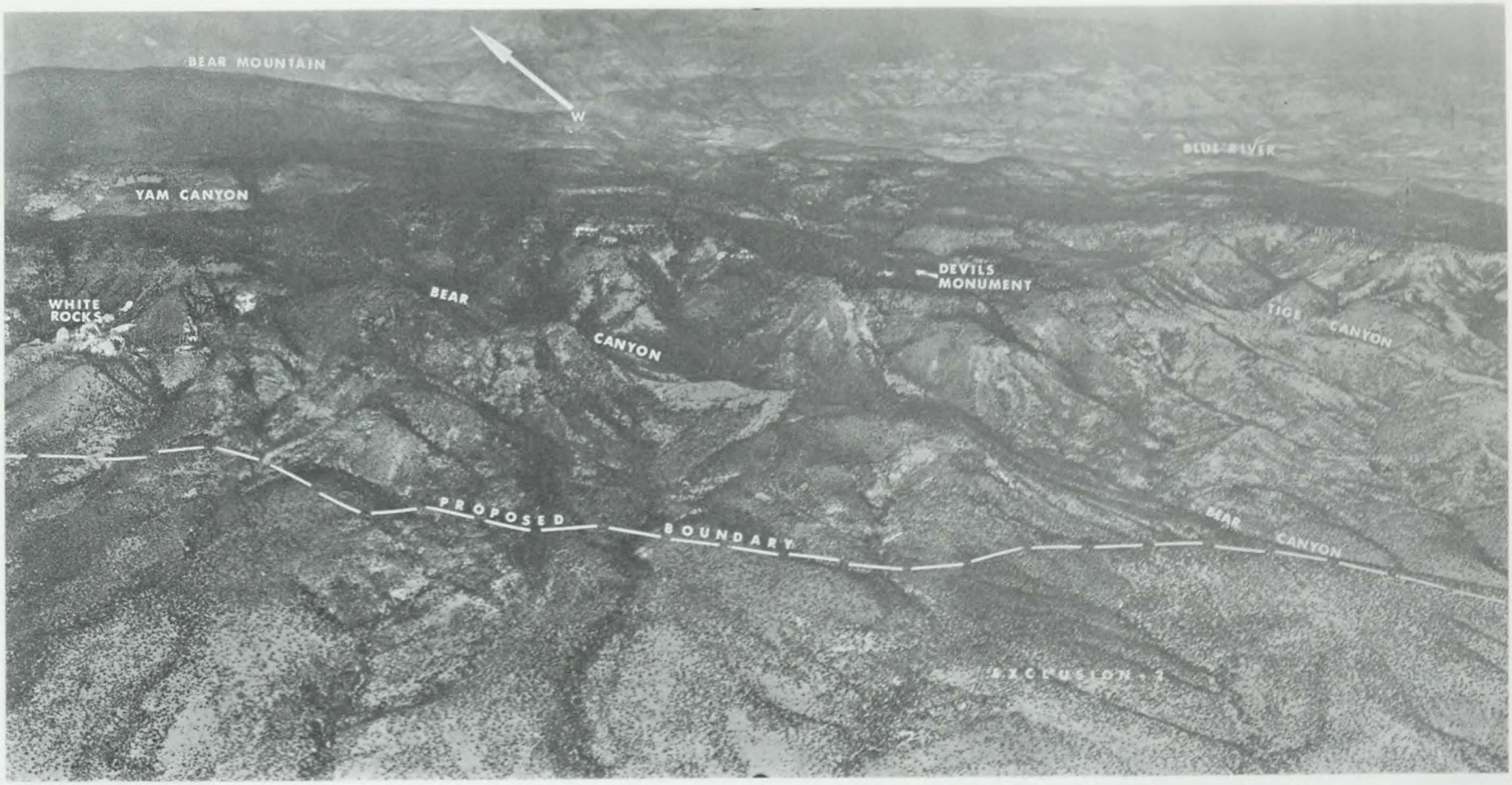
The 11,844-acre area proposed as Exclusion 4 has been severely abused by man. Logging, post and pole cutting, overgrazing, structural improvements, and three tracts of privately owned land have destroyed the wilderness character of the area. It is generally a fairly open, rolling country, more similar to the nonwilderness to the south than the high quality wilderness to the north.

Proposed Exclusion 5 is a high, timbered area of 2,759 acres above the Mogollon Rim. It is relatively flat and has been partially logged over the past. A low standard road crosses the area from east to west. Past abuse by livestock is evident on some meadows in the area. To preclude downstream degradation, these meadows must be rehabilitated.

To include contiguous Areas C and D would necessitate retention of Areas 3 and 4 which the Forest Service recommended be excluded. Area C contains an additional 4,320 acres outside Forest Service proposed Exclusion 4, and Area D contains 19,344 acres contiguous to proposed Forest Service Exclusion 3. Accepting this recommendation for Areas C and 4 and D and 3 would mean inclusion of four tracts of privately owned lands, areas that have been roaded and cutover, and land that generally bears the mark of man and his activity. There is also a relatively high value mineral potential in the areas. The Forest Service has concluded that Exclusion 3 and 4 and contiguous Areas C and D should not be made a part of the Blue Range Wilderness.

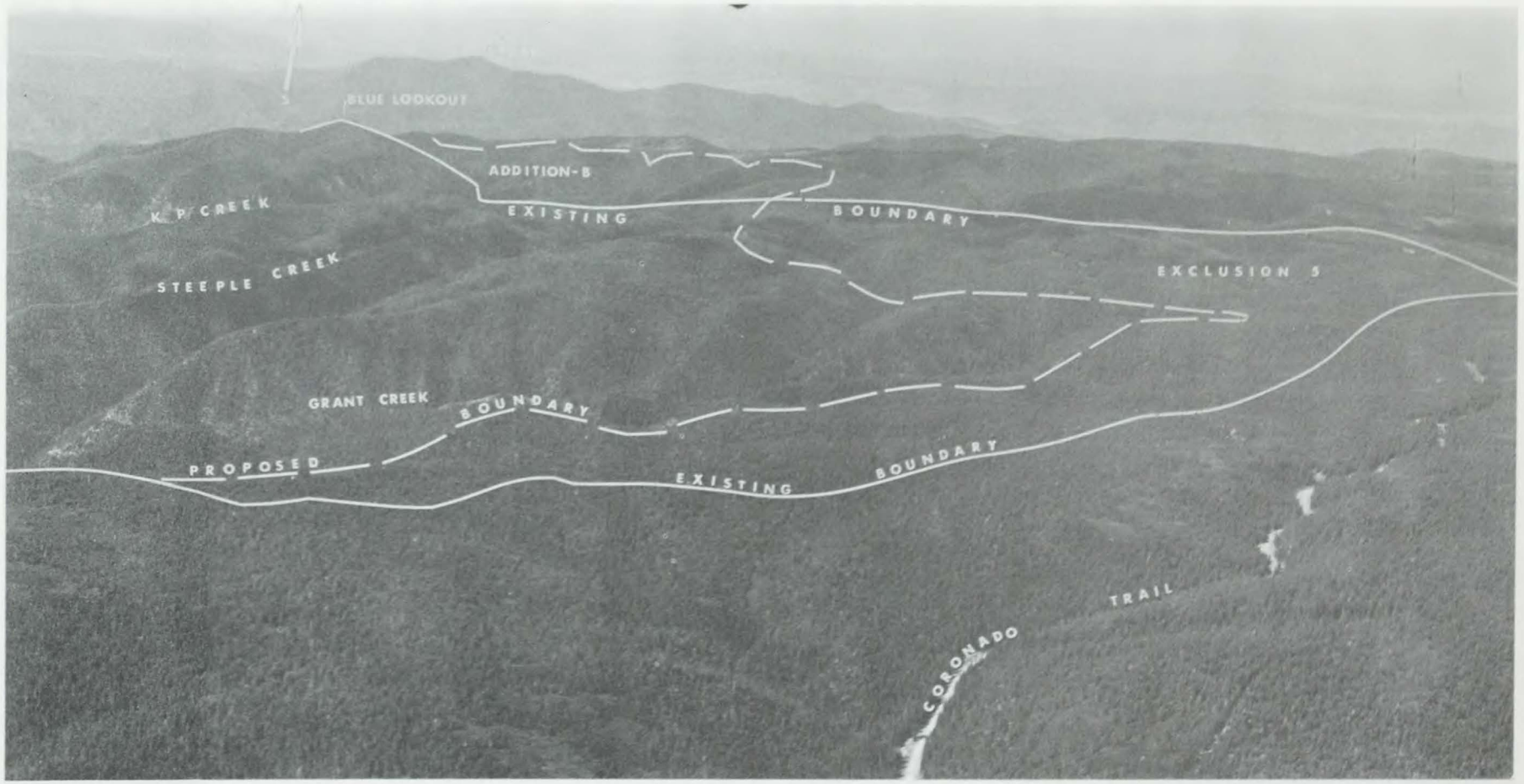
Area E is a part of the area that the Forest Service proposed as a part of Exclusion 1. Logging and roadbuilding, though now quite old, is still evident within the Sawmill Canyon area. Quality Wilderness no longer exists here, and it is the Forest Service conclusion that the area be excluded from the proposed Wilderness.

More recent logging and roadbuilding, coupled with past grazing abuse of delicate high mountain meadows in Area F, which is the same area proposed by the Forest Service as Exclusion 5, does, in the opinion of the Forest Service, disqualify the area for inclusion in the proposed Wilderness. A strong topographic feature is present on which to locate the proposed boundary, in lieu of the rather obscure boundary of the present Primitive Area.

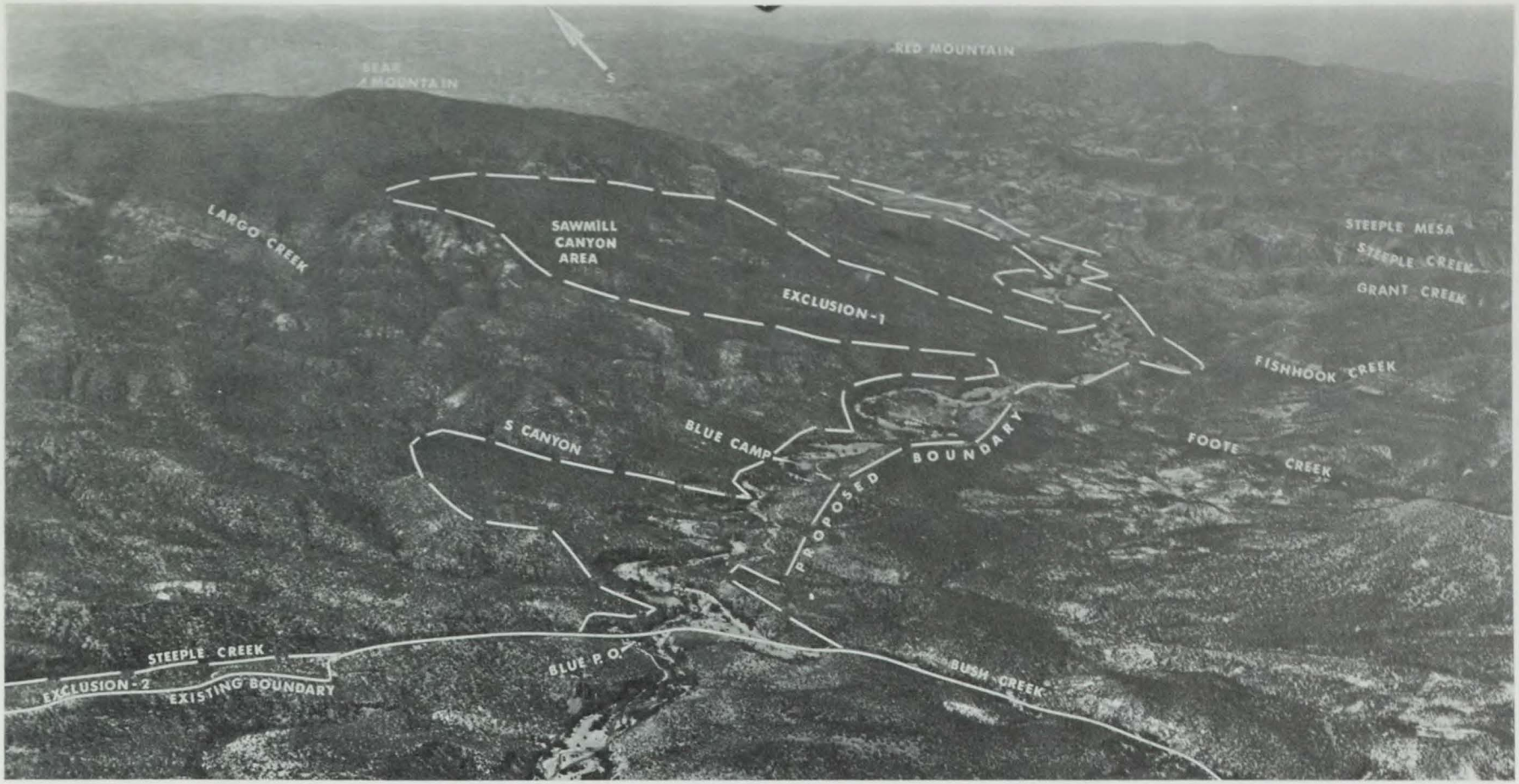


Proposed Exclusion #2 contains numerous unmistakable signs of man's presence, such as primitive roads, ranching headquarters, structural range improvements, and scattered timber cutting. Farther west, in the proposed Wilderness, some of the unique scenic attractions of the area are clearly visible.

As in the case in Areas C and D, there are limited areas of land possessing wilderness characteristics in the 7,670-acre Area G. Inclusion of this tract of land would only add acres, since there is an abundance of like country within the area proposed for Wilderness. Strong topographic features to aid boundary definition and area management are lacking if the area were included. An old road also penetrates Area G. In order to maintain overall high quality wilderness, bounded by readily identifiable topographic features, the Forest Service concluded that this area should not be within an area recommended for Wilderness.



Proposed Addition B and Exclusion 5 represent adjustments necessary to include land with true wilderness characteristics and exclude areas that lack these characteristics, that cannot be adequately protected from invasion, or where man has left signs of significant disturbance.



The extremely rugged topography of the proposed wilderness is readily apparent in this view from the north. Proposed Exclusion #1 contains roads, private land, and a number of other signs of man's activities.

APPENDIX A
PROPOSED WILDERNESS BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

All land hereinafter described is in unsurveyed townships except for a portion of T. 3 N., R. 31 E. All distances are map distances, and therefore are only approximate.

The Blue Range Wilderness is on the Apache National Forest in Greenlee County, State of Arizona, and in Catron County, State of New Mexico. The following description refers to the map titled "Proposed Blue Range Wilderness, Apache National Forest, Southwestern Region," which is on file at the Forest Service Regional Office, Albuquerque, New Mexico; the office of the Forest Supervisor, Apache National Forest, Springerville, Arizona; and District Rangers' offices at Clifton and Alpine, Arizona, and Luna, New Mexico.

Beginning at a point on the north boundary of the Wilderness which point is the northeast corner of the patented land described as W½SE¼NW¼ of Section 14, T. 3 N., R. 31 E., Gila and Salt River Meridian; thence meandering in an easterly direction up the center of the bottom of Steeple Canyon for a distance of 5.0 miles to the head of Steeple Canyon; thence in a northeasterly direction through a saddle into a side canyon of Pueblo Creek for a distance of 0.75 mile; thence in a southeasterly and southerly direction down the center of the bottom of the West Fork of Pueblo Creek for a distance of 5.25 miles to a point just downstream from the confluence of Bear Canyon with Pueblo Creek; thence in a southwesterly direction along the center of the top of the prominent ridge on the south side of Bear Canyon for a distance of 1.75 miles; thence south and southwesterly 7.25 miles skirting the east side of Whiterocks Mountains along a line near their base where the topography abruptly steepens, such line meandering in a southwesterly direction to a point which is about one-half mile west of the Little Blue Creek Trail, F.S. #141, on the west edge of Alma Mesa above Little Blue Creek; thence in a southerly direction 10.25 miles along the top edge of the escarpment, which is the drainage divide between Little Blue Creek and Alma Mesa, and continuing on up the center of the prominent ridge between Hannah Springs Creek and the drainage to the east which is the main north-south ridge centering on Maple Peak, to a junction with a ridge from the west which point is 1.25 miles north of the top of Maple Peak; thence in a westerly direction down the center of the ridge between Hobo Canyon and Hannah Springs and Little Blue Creeks, *except* skirting the north edge of Hobo Mesa, and continuing for a total distance of 5.0 miles to the confluence of Hobo Canyon and Little Blue Creek; thence down Little Blue Creek in a westerly direction .50 mile to where it enters the Blue River bottom; thence up the east side of the Blue River in a northerly direction 3.75 miles along the ledges and natural barriers of the canyon, but skirting the eastern and northern boundaries of the private land known as the "Bell Place" in Sections 31 and 36, T. 1 N., R. 30 E. to the southeast corner of the HU Bar Ranch, which is the patented land located in the SE¼ of unsurveyed Section 24, T. 1 N., R. 30 E., G&SRM; thence north along the east boundary of the HU Bar a distance of .70 mile, and on along the east side of the Blue River to the Blue River Box; thence west crossing the Blue River at the Box and turning south .3 mile along the west side of Blue River and the HU Bar to the top of a small ridge where the Forest Trail No. 114 enters the private land; thence northwesterly 1 mile along the ridge between Bull Creek and Benton Creek to a point; thence southwesterly .25 mile down a ridge, crossing Benton Creek, and ascending a small ridge to the south of Benton Creek to the ridge between unnamed tributaries of Benton Creek on the north and Thomas Creek on the south; thence northwesterly 1.5 miles along the ridge to a point overlooking Thomas Creek; thence westerly and southwesterly .25 mile down a small ridge to a crossing of Thomas Creek at a point 1.0 mile above the north boundary of the VT Ranch patent in Section 22, T. 1 N., R. 30 E., G&SRM; thence continuing westerly and southwesterly 1.5 miles up a ridge to a point on the main ridge which is the drainage divide between Thomas Creek and Rousensock Creek; thence southerly and southwesterly

1.1 miles down a ridge to Rousensock Creek; thence southwesterly, northwesterly, and southwesterly 1.75 miles ascending along a minor ridge to the top of a sharp peak on the main ridge which is the drainage divide between Rousensock Creek and Squaw Creek; thence northwesterly 3 miles along this Rousensock Creek-Squaw Creek drainage divide to a point on the ridge which is 2.25 miles northwest of the AD Bar Ranch; thence northerly .25 mile down a small drainage tributary to Rousensock Creek to its intersection with a larger drainage from the west; thence westerly 1.0 mile along the bottom of the drainage to a point; thence southerly and southwesterly .25 mile to the top of the Rousensock-Squaw Creek drainage divide; thence westerly 1.5 miles along this divide to a point about .1 mile below an old road between Hogtrail Saddle and Rose Peak; thence northerly 1.25 miles; skirting .1 mile below the old road, to a point .75 mile east of Rose Peak on the top of the main ridge connecting Rose Peak with Red Mountain; thence northward .30 mile down a small side drainage of the main south fork of Strayhorse Canyon to the bottom of this main fork; thence in a northerly direction 1.25 miles over a ridge to the bottom of a fork of the main Strayhorse Canyon; thence in a northeasterly direction 1.75 miles along the center of the bottom of said fork to the point of its intersection with another fork of Strayhorse Canyon; thence in a northeasterly and northerly direction 5.5 miles on a variable course averaging .25 mile from U.S. Highway 666, following natural barriers and the break of the ridge to a point on a prominent ridge east of the livestock camp and corrals in Rattlesnake Basin; thence in a northerly direction 1.0 mile up said ridge to the top of the Mogollon Rim; thence eastward along the edge of the Mogollon Rim to a Saddle on the Blue Lookout Trail, for a distance of .25 mile; thence on a variable course swinging northwesterly, northerly, and northeasterly around the head of KP Creek, following the sharp break into the canyon, to the divide between KP and Grant Creeks, for a distance of 7.5 miles; thence in a southeasterly direction along the south break of the divide between KP and Steeple Creeks, for a distance of 1.2 miles; thence in a northerly direction across Steeple Creek, continuing over the divide into a minor fork of Grant Creek, for a distance of 1.0 mile; thence northwesterly across several small drainages and staying in the steep area breaking into Grant Creek for a distance of 1.0 mile; thence down a fork of Grant Creek to the bottom of Grant Creek for a distance of .30 mile; thence down Grant Creek for a distance of .10 mile; thence up a very minor north fork of Grant Creek to the southeast edge of the flat top ridge constituting the divide between the Blue River and Black River drainages; thence in a northeasterly direction staying along the sharp break (also described as the east edge of the Blue Range Mountains) to a point at the head of Bush Creek, for a distance of 11.50 miles; thence in a southeasterly and southerly direction down the center of the bottom of Bush Creek, for a distance of 7.25 miles to a point approximately .50 mile from the confluence of Bush Creek and Blue River; thence down the west side of Blue River along the ledges, natural barriers, and steep breaks, and not including the several patents along the Blue River bottom and in the mouth of KP Creek, for a distance of 12.5 miles to the south end of a parcel of patented land in the NW¼NE¼ of unsurveyed Section 26, T. 2 N., R. 30 E., G&SRM; thence in a northerly and northeasterly direction up the east side of Blue River along the ledges, natural barriers, and steep breaks and not including the several patents in the Blue River bottom, for a distance of 12.0 miles to the drainage divide on the south side of the mouth of Sawmill Canyon, thence southeasterly 2.0 miles up the divide between Sawmill Canyon and Sweetie Canyon; thence easterly .75 mile around the head of the south fork of Sawmill Canyon; thence northerly 1.5 miles following the toe of the steep slope at the foot of Telephone Ridge across the head of Sawmill Canyon and on unnamed drainage north of Sawmill Canyon to a point which is the southeast corner of Sec. 28, T. 2 N., R. 31 E., thence northwesterly and westerly 2.0 miles along the ridge running northwesterly and westerly from this point between two unnamed drainages which are tributary to the Blue River to the Blue River itself; thence continuing generally northerly 5.0 miles along the ledges and rims of the canyon of the Blue River, but not including the several patents in the river bottom to the northeast corner of the W½SE¼NW¼ of Section 14, T. 3 N., R. 31 E., G&SRM, which point is the point of beginning, containing 177,239 acres more or less.

APPENDIX B
VIEWS OF OTHER AGENCIES OF GOVERNMENT AND ORGANIZATIONS

Coronado
Resource Conservation & Development Project

Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, Pima, Pinal and Santa Cruz Counties, Arizona

750 E. Maley - Willcox, Arizona 85643

EXHIBIT

RESOLUTION

On September 11, 1969, the Coronado Resource Conservation & Development Steering Committee passed a resolution that the Blue Range Primitive Area not be reclassified and included into the Wilderness system.

The Coronado Resource Conservation and Development group feels that the best use for the area is the multiple concept with mining, grazing, lumbering, hunting, fishing, and recreation of all kinds being carried out.

Many improvements to the area by patented land owners and the people with grazing privileges have been carried out. We feel that roads for access to their holdings should be maintained. Other structures such as water improvements for livestock and wildlife installed by them also need maintenance using modern equipment.

The creation of a wilderness area would seriously curtail the multiple use of this area for all, and with a severe economic loss to everyone as well.

Robert Bond
Secretary

EXHIBIT

GREENLEE COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Blue Range Primitive Area is being considered for permanent reclassification as a wilderness area; and,

WHEREAS, the Greenlee County Chamber of Commerce is an organization dedicated to the economic development of Greenlee County by fostering business, recreation, good government and all types of activities that are beneficial not only to the citizens of this County, but to the citizens of the State of Arizona and the United States of America; and,

WHEREAS, a very serious imbalance exists in Greenlee County wherein the great majority of the land in said county is publicly owned and the local government receives little or no revenue from the public land holders in the county; and,

WHEREAS, while the State of Arizona has experienced a tremendous growth in the last twenty-five (25) years, the County of Greenlee has maintained a status quo and has not shared in any of the growth of the State of Arizona, one of the main reasons for the lack of growth in said county being the fact that the great majority of the land in said county is publicly owned; and,

WHEREAS, the Greenlee County Chamber of Commerce is greatly interested in the future progress, economic development, recreational needs and orderly growth of Greenlee County, and a reclassification of the Blue Range as a wilderness area will greatly impair all of these goals; and,

WHEREAS, the area was settled in the 1880's and many patented homesteads exist in said area, which would be greatly affected by

such reclassification; and,

WHEREAS, a county road has existed along the Blue River since 1896 and said road is essential for the residents of the Blue River area to have access to their county seat, especially during periods when the other available roads are all snowed in, and the continued maintenance of a road along the Blue River would provide an all-weather route of access; and,

WHEREAS, the Gila Wilderness Area provides wilderness benefits in this area; and,

WHEREAS, reclassification of this area would prevent the multiple use principle of the public from being applied as well as the highest and best use principle of public lands.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Greenlee County Chamber of Commerce does hereby officially oppose the reclassification of the Blue Range Primitive Area to a wilderness area for the reasons herein set forth, and for other reasons which clearly indicate that such action is not in the best interests of the citizens of the United States of America, the State of Arizona, or the County of Greenlee.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 5th day of December, 1969.

GREENLEE COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

By: Verl D. Scott
Verl D. Scott
President

Attest: Clarice Mullins
Clarice Mullins
Secretary

EXHIBIT

This is a true copy of pages 195 through 199 and a portion of page 200 of the verbatim transcript of the Blue Range Primitive Area Reclassification Hearing held at Springerville, Arizona, December 20, 1969. The entire transcript is on file in the office of the Chief, Forest Service, Washington, D. C., and the Regional Forester, Federal Building, 517 Gold Avenue, SW., Albuquerque, New Mexico.

MR. CURTIS: Mr. Chairman, my name is Robert D. Curtis, and I am Chief of the Special Services Division of the Arizona Game and Fish Department. I am appearing here today as a representative of Mr. Robert Jantzen, Director of the Department, and its governing body, the Arizona Game and Fish Commission.

The Arizona Game and Fish Department is responsible for and charged by law with the administration and management of the fish and wildlife resources in Arizona. The Arizona Game and Fish Commission is responsible for the establishment of broad policies and long-range management programs for the preservation, management and harvest of fish and wildlife in Arizona. Control of the Department is vested in the Game and Fish Commission.

Since the Game and Fish Commission owns only a very small percentage of land in Arizona for wildlife management purposes, I believe the percentage is about three hundredths to one percent, the Commission and Department must depend upon the lands of others to carry out our responsibilities. These lands, for the most part, are under the administration of the Federal Government (Bureau of Land Management, U. S. Forest Service, National Park Service) or State land not under control of the Department. Most of these lands are managed under the concept of multiple-use, but some lands possess unique features and qualities and these require special consideration. The Blue Range is an area that possesses such unique features and qualities and so we are here today to request special consideration for this area and to recommend that the Blue Range be added to the National Wilderness Preservation System as the Blue Range Wilderness Area.

We make the above recommendation because we are concerned with the administration, management, and integrity of the Blue Range. Obviously our Department's programs are affected and we are concerned when public lands, such as the Blue Range Primitive Area are up for review. We realize that public lands and waters are subject to change and are further subjected to multiple demands because of the tremendous growth in the West, but one basic fact remains that without land and water in considerable quantity and suitable quality there can be no fish and wildlife. An unalterable and basic fact is that wildlife is a product of the land. It is like timber, water, or anything else, a product of the land.

Basically, the Arizona Game and Fish Commission and Department agreed with the recommendations of the U. S. Forest Service to add the Blue Range Primitive Area to the National Wilderness Preservation System. However, we do wish to add several comments relative to the Exclusions and Additions. It is the opinion of the Commission and Department that Additions A and B possess unique wilderness characteristics and should be added. Further, the Commission has reestablished the Arizona native trout in KP Creek in Addition B, that is the lower addition there, and the occurrence of this rare and endangered species added a unique feature to the Wilderness.

With regard to Exclusions 1 thru 5 we are in agreement with the recommendations of the U. S. Forest Service except that we recommend that the 1,000 acre parcel in Sawmill Canyon should be included in the Blue Range Wilderness designation. We feel that since logging was done seven or so years ago, that the scars of man are probably healed, and that the area in Sawmill Canyon should be included.

With regard to Exclusions 2, 3, and 4 the Commission and Department recommend that the U. S. Forest Service rehabilitate these areas by pursuing a more active program of miltiple-use management. Not to take anything away from Hallie Cox, but sometimes with lack of personnel or money, you just can't get around to it, but we hope in the future they can.

Since we are an agency involved in the management of fish and wildlife resources, we feel it necessary to mention the hunting aspects associated with wilderness. Further, when we speak of wilderness-type habitat and wilderness-type hunting that is associated with this habitat, we are speaking of quality.

Quality wilderness hunting is not measured by the number of game animals taken or the number of man-days of hunting in the field. The statistics and surveys that we use to measure game management success or progress on multiple-use or high-impact areas are not valid in a wilderness area. The man who goes to the effort to equip himself and to get into the wilderness to hunt has other values, many intangible, which our game management statistics and surveys cannot effectively measure.

We cannot predict how many hunters will avail themselves of this experience, but for those who indulge in a wilderness hunt - the experience will be worth it.

The Arizona Game and Fish Commission and Department have maintained an interest in this unique area for many years. We have an interest in this primitive area because it is a part of Arizona and we are responsible for the administration and management of fish and wildlife resources in Arizona.

We are sure that the people of Arizona, who care about wild and natural things, are interested in the Blue Range. For those who take the time to hike, camp, fish or hunt, or whatever they do, the experience will be long remembered.

As cities grow and urbanization expands, the need of the people for wild areas increases. Consequently, the difficulty of satisfying that need also increases. While the need for natural features of wilderness has increased, the resources to meet that need have diminished.

Society and a forward thinking people will determine the choice that is necessary for the Blue Range. What we say here will help, but it will end up in the halls of Congress where it will be determined. It is for us to decide whether we favor wilderness and the irreplaceable values associated with an environment of solitude or whether we favor the onward rush of civilization and the multiple demands that will undoubtedly change the environment.

The time has come to use foresight and to recognize the ever-increasing pressure of an exploding population and a spreading urban civilization upon our remaining wildlife resources and their associated environment. We must further recognize the Blue Range environment as a human need rather than a football to be bounded around among special interest groups.

The Arizona Game and Fish Commission and Department recommend and encourage the U. S. Forest Service and the Secretary of Agriculture to recommend to the President of the United States and to Congress that the Blue Range Primitive Area be added to the National Wilderness Preservation System. This area would be identified as the Blue Range Wilderness.

In conclusion, we base our encouragement and recommendations upon the following basic tenets:

1. That the Blue Range Wilderness be forever open to public hunting and fishing and other public use in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. Exceptions to this provision could occur during temporary times of the year when administrative closures to all public use are necessary for the public safety or the preservation of the area.

2. That the sovereign right of the State of Arizona to manage and regulate all resident fish and wildlife in the Arizona portion of the Blue Range Wilderness be recognized by the United States Government.

3. That reasonable measures for the maintenance of water for wildlife and livestock be provided.

4. That the U. S. Forest Service maintain the Blue Range as a true wilderness so that man and his works are substantially unnoticeable.

Both the Commission and Department are convinced that with the establishment of the Blue Range Wilderness and the implementation of the above recommendations that the public interests will be assured. Finally, we are convinced that the intent of Congress to stay within the definition of wilderness as envisioned by Congress will also be assured.

EXHIBIT

This is a true copy of portions of pages 31 through 33 of the verbatim transcript of the Blue Range Primitive Area Reclassification Hearing held at the Catron County Courthouse, Reserve, New Mexico, December 19, 1969.

MR. ATWOOD: Yes sir. I am Bob Atwood, spokesman for the Catron County Commissioners.

Resolution: WHEREAS, The Board of Catron County Commissioners of Catron County, Reserve, Catron County, New Mexico, in regular session this lst day of December, 1969 A.D., with their quorum present, have unanimously adopted a resolution opposing reclassification of the Blue Range Primitive Area which is located within the Apache National Forest, Greenlee County, Apache County, State of Arizona, and Catron County, State of New Mexico.

WHEREAS, The Blue River Range has afforded sportsmen of all financial categories with hunting, fishing and recreation outings. Families, men, women and children of all ages can enjoy the facilities which nature has provided. The loss of this area to the Wilderness for recreation purposes and tourist attractions may well be the most serious effect.

Young families with small children cannot walk 15 or 20 miles into the Wilderness. Older people, on the average, haven't the stamina to invade these areas very far. Working men do not have the money or time to explore these areas whose vastness requires either considerable time by foot, or added expense for pack trip accommodations. Only a select few individuals would ever be able to financially afford the expense of such camping equipment, pack trains and guides, to enable them to visit these remote regions.

WHEREAS, there is already an abundant supply of purposeful Wilderness reservation in the Federal lands of the West to accomplish the purpose of the Wilderness Act set forth in September 3, 1964.

WHEREAS, the creation of another Wilderness area further violates the multiple use principle of Public Lands in the West as established by the Act of June 4, 1897. Although grazing of cattle is permitted as long as it is compatible with the Wilderness, the ability of the forage

resource to sustain itself, experience with other Wilderness areas clearly indicates that with no control of brush there is great increase of undergrowth, and it will be a short time before grass is reduced, thus reducing the number of cattle. This has a far reaching effect on the economy of the people, the Counties, and the States.

The creation of the Blue Wilderness would further add to the already existing problems that New Mexico and Arizona have with water. Because of the excessive growth of underbrush and timber, this area acts only as a sponge, not only retaining water that normally runs off, but using more and more water to support the brush, undergrowth, and trees, thus drying up natural springs and streams.

Fortunately, there seems to be room in our Western States for all with an interest in multiple use of our vast area dating back to the year 1880; ample playground protected forests and stable grazing ranges, provided common sense and fair play write the rules and regulations. After all, there are millions of acres of natural Wilderness lands in the West that are bound to remain so indefinitely with official or other type designation.

NOW, THEREFORE, Be it Resolved, that we, the Catron County Commissioners, observing the views of the people and acting in the better interests of all those concerned, unanimously oppose reclassification of the Blue Range Area.

EXHIBIT

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, the Blue Range Primitive Area is being considered for permanent reclassification as a wilderness area; and,

WHEREAS, Greenlee County Arizona, and Graham County Arizona have a common economic base, and any factor that affects Greenlee County affects Graham County directly; and,

WHEREAS, the owners of patented land in this area will be denied reasonable access, restrict grazing priviledges; and,

WHEREAS, the County road along the Blue River an important access road, which has been maintained by Greenlee County since 1896, and the U. S. Forest Department ordered said County not to maintain said road in October 1968; and,

WHEREAS, one of the largest wilderness areas in the United States, being the Gila Wilderness in New Mexico, is located approximately twenty (20) miles from the proposed Blue Wilderness Area and said area, together with the Mt. Baldy Primitive Area, provide vast wilderness areas and benefits for the public in this area; and,

WHEREAS, such classification would restrict the rights of most of our citizens to hunt and fish in this area, curtail ranching and farming operations and prohibit the harvest of timber in said area; and,

WHEREAS, this reclassification of said area, will deny the multiple use principle and thereby deprive the greatest number of our citizens the right and opportunity to enjoy the resources of this area, thus weakening our economic structure.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Safford-Graham County Chamber of Commerce does hereby oppose the reclassification of the Blue Range Primitive Area, to a Wilderness Area for the reasons herein set forth and for other reasons which show that such action is not in the best interest of County of Graham, County of Greenlee, the State of Arizona, of the United States of America.

Safford-Graham County
Chamber of Commerce

By: I. Lamar Allred
I. Lamar Allred
President

Attest: Howard L. Phillips
Howard L. Phillips
Executive Manager

EXHIBIT

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, the Blue Range Primitive Area is being considered for permanent reclassification as a wilderness area; and,

WHEREAS, approximately 92% of said proposed wilderness area lies entirely within Greenlee County, Arizona; and,

WHEREAS, the County of Greenlee Board of Supervisors is the duly constituted political subdivision responsible for the local government and responsible for the education, police protection, taxation and well-being of all the residents of said area, as well as responsible for providing all the local governmental services to said area; and,

WHEREAS, any reclassification of said area would materially impair the future progress, economic development, recreation needs and orderly growth of Greenlee County and the State of Arizona; and,

WHEREAS, this area was settled in approximately 1880 and many patented homesteads are within said area, and historically since said period, owners of said patented land have had access and grazing privileges in this area; and,

WHEREAS, a county road along the Blue River was established by order of the Board of Supervisors on the 10th day of January, 1896, said road having been maintained by said county until October of 1968, when said county was ordered not to maintain said road by the U. S. Forest Department; and,

WHEREAS, the road along said Blue River provided the only north-south access in Greenlee County for many years until the completion of the Coronado Trail, and with the new proposed re-alignment

of the Coronado Trail, said Blue River Road with little improvement can provide access to the county seat for all of the residents of the Blue Area as well as access to the public; and,

WHEREAS, approximately 93.5% of Greenlee County consists of public lands and the remainder of said lands provide all of the tax base for the support of local government including education, said proportion being unfair and placing a great burden upon the owners of private land in said county, and further, said public lands provide little or no revenue for local government; and,

WHEREAS, one of the largest wilderness areas in the United States, being the Gila Wilderness in New Mexico, is located approximately twenty (20) miles from the proposed Blue Wilderness Area and said area, together with the Mt. Baldy Primitive Area, provide vast wilderness areas and benefits for the public in this area; and,

WHEREAS, the reclassification of said area would prevent the multiple use principle from being applied and thereby deprive the great majority of our citizens of our country the complete use and benefits of the resources of said area; and,

WHEREAS, such reclassification would prohibit access to said area by all motorized travel, curtail the discovery of all minerals within said area, greatly limit the harvest of wildlife in said area by sportsmen and fishermen, curtail ranching and farming operations and prohibit timbering in said area, and limit the right of most of our citizens to see and enjoy said area.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Greenlee County Board of Supervisors does hereby officially oppose the reclassification of the Blue Range Primitive Area to a wilderness area for the reasons herein set forth and for other reasons which clearly indi-

cate that such action is not in the best interests of the citizens of the United States of America, the State of Arizona, or the County of Greenlee.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 3rd day of November, 1969.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
GREENLEE COUNTY, ARIZONA

By: C. C. Martin
C. C. Martin
Chairman

Attest: Nelda B. Ford
Nelda B. Ford
Clerk

C E R T I F I C A T I O N

STATE OF ARIZONA)
) ss.
County of Greenlee)

I, Nelda B. Ford, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of Greenlee County, State of Arizona,

hereby certify the within and foregoing to be a full, true and correct copy of the Resolution opposing the re-classification of the Blue Range Primitive Area as a Wilderness Area,

duly adopted on the 3rd day of November, 19 69.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Seal of said Greenlee County Board of Supervisors this 19th day of December, 1969.

Nelda B Ford

Nelda B. Ford, Clerk
Greenlee County Board of Supervisors
(Title)

EXHIBIT

THE MARICOPA AUDUBON SOCIETY

Phoenix, Arizona
20 December, 1 9 6 9

1505 E. Cherry Lynn
Phoenix, Arizona 85014

To: The Hearing Officer U.S. Forest Service
V.F.W. Hall, Springerville, Arizona

Subject: Proposed Blue Range Wilderness

From: The Maricopa Audubon Society

The Maricopa Audubon Society has participated in the study and analysis of regions considered by the U.S. Forest Service for inclusion and exclusion as they relate to a proposed Blue Range Wilderness.

With the request that this statement be recorded as official in the body of testimony you are taking today, the Maricopa Audubon Society takes the following position: (a) we advocate an increased acreage over the Forest Service proposal for 177,139 acres and call attention to the fact that the present Primitive Area comprises 210,310 acres. (b) We agree with the Forest Service additions A and B; (c) and agree to Forest Service deletions of Units 1-A and 2-A. (d) We urge the extension of the wilderness boundaries to include Units C and D. We oppose deletion of Units 1-B, 2-B, 3, 4 and 5 which ~~are~~ is now proposed by the Regional Forester.

Thank you for the opportunity we have here today.

Sincerely,

Peggy Spaw

Mrs. Scott Spaw, Chairman
Conservation Committee
MARICOPA AUDUBON SOCIETY

JOHN J. RHODES
1ST DISTRICT, ARIZONA

COMMITTEE:
APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEES:
DEFENSE
PUBLIC WORKS

EXHIBIT

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
ALMA A. ALKIRE

LEGISLATIVE ASSISTANT
THOMAS N. CROWE

SECRETARIES:
RITA M. DECENZO
CLARA POSEY
PATRICIA HUTCHINSON
OLIVE RAY
PAMELA PETHICK

DISTRICT OFFICE:
6081 FEDERAL BUILDING
PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85025
ROBERT J. SCANLAN
BETTY CORBETT

December 29, 1969

Dear Mr. Hurst:

I am enclosing for your attention a letter I received from the Salt River Project concerning the Blue Range Wilderness proposal, and to advise you that I agree with the ideas expressed by the Salt River Project.

Best wishes for the coming New Year!

Yours sincerely,

John J. Rhodes
Member of Congress

Enclosure
JJR/rmd

Mr. Wm. D. Hurst
Regional Forester
U. S.Forest Service
517 Gold Avenue, S. W.
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87101

EXHIBIT

SALT RIVER PROJECT
P. O. BOX 1980
PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85001

December 19, 1969

VICTOR I. CORBELL, PRESIDENT
FLOYD N. SMITH, VICE PRESIDENT
R. J. McMULLIN, GENERAL MANAGER

Honorable John J. Rhodes
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear John:

Appreciate receiving your letter regarding the Blue Range Wilderness proposal. While this area is not in the Salt River Valley watershed, we are in accord with the recommendations of the proposal to exclude certain lands that are not "wilderness" in concept and including other areas in order to delineate the wilderness area. We of the Salt River Project are in accord with the establishment of wilderness areas. Such geographical designations are definitely needed. We are, however, strongly against the numerous additions requested to be added to wilderness areas on the basis of a Nature Group's desires to preserve a specific characteristic for the benefit of a select group who can afford the time and money to hike in to see it.

We have learned of a concept that has been initiated in Montana in conjunction with the Absaroda-Beartooth Primitive Area which is referred to as "Coordinated Resource Management Planning". This concept provides for a discussion of all interested parties before it has been designated as a wilderness area and before the boundaries have been delineated. This should create a better understanding amongst the groups and will avoid the conflict that now exists at hearings where the conflicting concepts are submitted with no opportunity of discussion by either side. We are certain that this type of coordinated management planning will be adopted in the near future by the supervisors of the Arizona Forest Service and will, undoubtedly, result in a better understanding amongst all disciplines interested in the establishment of wilderness areas.

John, we would like to bring to your attention some discrepancies in the Blue Range Wilderness proposal, attached, namely:

a. On Page 5 under the heading, RECREATION --

> ".....As populations and social pressures increase, more people probably will turn to the Wilderness for outdoor recreation. There are no developed recreation sites and no need for any in the foreseeable future."

This appears to be in conflict since it is rather obvious that population and social pressures will demand recreation sites in the future.

b. On Page 6 under the heading, WATER --

> ".....Under Wilderness management, native vegetative cover would be maintained and improved."

It has always been our understanding that there would be no maintenance or improvement of wilderness areas.

c. On Page 7 under the heading, EFFECTS OF WILDERNESS CLASSIFICATION --

> ".....No serious forest fire, insect, or disease problems exist. Designation as Wilderness would give permanent protection to the Wilderness resource."

Again, here Man has to manage the forest lands in order to avoid uncontrolled forest fires, insect and disease infestations.

John, I hope the above reflects our objective approach on the subject of Wilderness Areas and our desire to work with the Forest Service. Thanks for the opportunity of commenting on this proposal.

Very truly yours,

R. J. McMullin
General Manager

srk

EXHIBIT

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF OUTDOOR RECREATION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO: D72

MAR 12 1970

Mr. Edward P. Cliff
Chief, Forest Service
Department of Agriculture
Washington, D. C. 20250

Dear Mr. Cliff:

In further response to Deputy Chief M. M. Nelson's letter of November 18, 1969, we are pleased to endorse the proposed Blue Range Wilderness area as presented during public hearings at Reserve, New Mexico (12/19/69) and Springerville, Arizona (12/20/69). We believe that the primitive integrity and uniqueness of the area and its existing and potential value for wilderness type recreation would make it a worthy addition to the National Wilderness Preservation System.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Blue Range Wilderness proposal.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd) Lawrence N. Stevens

Director

EXHIBIT

STATEMENT OF FRANK E. SYLVESTER, REGIONAL DIRECTOR, PACIFIC SOUTHWEST REGION, BUREAU OF OUTDOOR RECREATION, FOR INCLUSION IN THE HEARING RECORD FOR THE PUBLIC HEARING HELD AT THE CATRON COUNTY COURTHOUSE, RESERVE, NEW MEXICO, TO DISCUSS A PROPOSAL FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF A WILDERNESS WITHIN THE BLUE RANGE PRIMITIVE AREA OF APACHE NATIONAL FOREST.

Mr. Chairman, I appreciate this opportunity to present the following information that the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation feels is pertinent to the consideration of establishing a wilderness area within the Blue Range Primitive Area as a unit of the National Wilderness Preservation System. This material is supplied in accordance with Public Law 88-29 under which the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation was assigned responsibilities for the coordination of Federal outdoor recreation programs and for the promotion of regional planning.

We feel that in establishing new and permanent wilderness areas, consideration should be given not only to the resource value of the proposed wilderness units themselves, but also to other outdoor recreation areas and resources in the general region.

As part of its nationwide outdoor recreation planning effort, the Bureau has compiled data on essentially all recreation areas in the United States, including wilderness areas. The attached tabulations, compiled from the data bank, list by BOR class and administrative level, the total acreage of public recreation areas in Arizona and New Mexico within an approximate 100-mile radius of the Blue Range Primitive Area.

In summation, the tabulations indicate that there is a total of 27,462,026 acres in Arizona and New Mexico dedicated to recreation administered by Federal, State and local agencies within approximately 100 miles of the proposed Blue Range Wilderness. Of this total, 27,298,154 acres are Federal, 162,825 are State, 645 are county, and 402 are local. Broken down by BOR classification, 30,495 acres or less than one-half percent are classified as (I) High Density Recreation Areas, 2,402,797 acres or more than eight percent as (II) General Outdoor Recreation Areas, 22,477,273 acres or over 81 percent as (III) Natural Environment Areas, 907,204 acres or a little more than three percent as (IV) Outstanding Natural Areas, 1,558,497 acres or less than six percent as (V) Primitive Areas, and 85,760 acres or a little under one-half percent as (VI) Historic and Cultural Sites.

The proposed Blue Range Wilderness is located in the Apache National Forest along the Arizona-New Mexico border. The majority of the proposal falls on the Arizona side. The proposed wilderness area is reached on the east by U.S. 180 and on the west by U.S. 666. U.S. 180 junctions with Interstate 10, the major east-west route, at Deming, New Mexico, while U.S. 666 connects at Wilcox, Arizona. The area is approximately 250 miles from Albuquerque and Tucson, and about 275 miles from Phoenix.

Population projections for a 100-mile radius around the proposal show a figure of 433,500 for 1970. In 1980, the figure is 538,100, and in 1990, 666,400. By the year 2000, it is projected to be 790,100. These figures are based on "Preliminary Report on Economic Projections for Selected Geographic Areas, 1929-2020", Volume I, Water Resources Council, March, 1968.

3

Total Acreage, by BOR Class, of Public Recreation Areas in Arizona Counties, within 100-mile Radius of the proposed Blue Range Wilderness

	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	TOTAL
ARIZONA							
Apache							
Federal		104,590	11,074,011	836,521	162,592	66,090	12,243,804
State		220	339				559
Total		104,810	11,074,350	836,521	162,592	66,090	12,244,363
Cochise							
Federal	12,920	93,275	1,630,656	51,650	75,704	5,161	1,869,366
State			4,091				4,091
Total	12,920	93,275	1,634,747	51,650	75,704	5,161	1,873,457
Gila							
Federal	15,040	1,718,529	2,424,254	360	358,905	419	4,517,507
State			170				170
Total	15,040	1,718,529	2,424,424	360	358,905	419	4,517,677
Graham							
Federal			44,972				44,972
State		100	460				560
Total		100	45,432				45,532
Greenlee							
Federal		3,678	1,170,218	40	187,565	800	1,362,301
Total		3,678	1,170,218	40	187,565	800	1,362,301
Navajo							
Federal	100	35,771	1,518,883	3,900		460	1,559,114
State		220	410				630
County	5		640				645
Total	105	35,991	1,519,933	3,900		460	1,560,389
Pinal							
Federal		10,418	139,681	3,279		473	153,851
Total		10,418	139,681	3,279		473	153,851

Total Acreage, by BOR Class, of Public Recreation Areas in New Mexico Counties, within 100-mile Radius of the proposed Blue Range Wilderness

	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	TOTAL
New Mexico							
Catron							
Federal		2,186	2,532,708	144	773,731	1,192	3,309,961
State	30	837	10				877
Total	30	3,023	2,532,718	144	773,731	1,192	3,310,838
Grant							
State		680	1,235				1,915
Local	30	142					172
Total	30	822	1,235				2,087
Hidalgo							
Federal			69,567				69,567
State		40	105,160				105,200
Total		40	174,727				174,767
Luna							
State		147	125			12	284
Total		147	125			12	284
McKinley							
Federal	200	388,710	20,000	10,000		10,000	428,910
Local	26	106					132
Total	226	388,816	20,000	10,000		10,000	429,042
Sierra							
Federal	2,130	7,903	1,590,195	1,310		75	1,601,613
State		30,734					30,734
Local	14	69					83
Total	2,144	38,706	1,590,195	1,310		75	1,632,430

Total Acreage, by BOR Class, of Public Recreation Areas in New Mexico Counties, within 100-mile Radius of the proposed Blue Range Wilderness

	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	TOTAL
New Mexico (cont'd)							
Socorro							
Federal			7,122			611	7,733
State		300	10,160				10,460
Total		300	17,282			611	18,193
Valencia							
Federal		112	128,876			467	129,455
State		4,015	3,330				7,345
Local		15					15
Total		4,142	132,206			467	136,815

Total Acreage, by BOR Class, of Public Recreation Areas in Arizona and New Mexico Counties, within 100-mile Radius of Blue Range Wilderness

	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	TOTAL
Arizona							
Federal Areas	28,060	1,966,261	18,002,675	895,750	784,766	73,403	21,750,915
State Areas		540	5,470				6,010
County Areas	5		640				645
Local Areas							
Total	28,065	1,966,801	18,008,785	895,750	784,766	73,403	21,757,570
New Mexico							
Federal Areas	2,330	398,911	4,348,468	11,454	773,731	12,345	5,547,239
State Areas	30	36,753	120,020			12	156,815
County Areas							
Local Areas	70	332					402
Total	2,430	435,996	4,468,488	11,454	773,731	12,357	5,704,456
GRAND TOTAL	30,495	2,402,797	22,477,273	907,204	1,558,497	85,760	27,462,026

EXHIBIT

JACK WILLIAMS
GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

STATE HOUSE
PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85007

IN REPLY
REFER TO:

December 18, 1969

Mr. William D. Hurst
Regional Forester
U. S. Forest Service
517 Gold Ave. S. W.
Albuquerque, N. M. 87101

Dear Mr. Hurst:

May I join with and concur in the statement in opposition to the Blue Range Primitive Area?

I am well acquainted in that particular part of our state and feel that Mr. O. M. Lassen's comments that the State of Arizona has little to gain and much to lose, is a good summation of my own opposition.

I further concur that the Blue Primitive area should be returned to normal multiple use management.

Sincerely,

Jack Williams

JW:jh

EXHIBIT

STATEMENT OF O. M. LASSEN

The State of Arizona has little to gain and much to lose if the Blue Range Primitive Area is added to the National Wilderness Preservation System.

The area is rich in natural resources, two of which, timber and water, come within my competence as State Forester and State Water Commissioner.

It is my purpose to discuss the importance of these two resources, timber and water, to the adjacent area and to the state as a whole.

The Blue River is a tributary of the San Francisco, which in turn is a tributary of the Gila. Some tributary. The child is at times bigger than the parent. In the 1968 water year, for example, the San Francisco produced over half as much water as the Gila emptied into San Carlos Reservoir -- and this is the rule rather than the exception.

Since San Carlos Reservoir is the primary source of water for almost 100,000 acres of irrigated land in Central Arizona, this places a heavy responsibility on the San Francisco River and upon its principal tributary, the Blue.

The situation is further complicated, and the importance of the Blue Watershed magnified, by the fact that San Carlos Reservoir has never been full since it was completed in 1928. Designed as the primary source of water for the San Carlos Project lands, it has rarely had enough water to irrigate more than half the acreage in the Project area, a condition which has led to a progressive lowering of the ground water table as farmers sought to augment the scanty flow of surface water by tapping ground water reserves.

Since the annual value of crops produced in the area is in the neighborhood of $10,000,000, it can be readily seen how important the water from the Blue River is to the overall economy of the State of Arizona.

Since much of the Blue Primitive area is in ponderosa pine and mixed conifer, both among the highest potential sources of water, the Blue assumes added importance as a watershed. Increasing the yield of water from this watershed can do much to correct the chronic shortage in San Carlos Reservoir and thus contribute, in an important way, to the economic well-being of the entire state.

Water yield improvement techniques, involving the manipulation of onsite vegetation, are now available for practical application. Many of these techniques are used in conjunction with timber harvesting, so I would now like to examine the timber resources of the Primitive Area, since they are closely related to the water resource and its management for greater water yield.

According to Forest Service estimates, there are 213,377,000 board feet of valuable and workable timber in the Blue Primitive Area. Wilderness classification would lock up this huge stand of timber for eternity, with a consequent affect on the local, state and even national economies.

This would seem most inconsistent in the light of the nation-wide timber shortage. I would point out that it also appears inconsistent for the Forest Service to urge elimination of this source of timber at the same time it is resisting such actions elsewhere, notably in the case of the proposed North Cascades National Park. The Redwood National Park is another case in point.

We also call attention to the fact that the proposed wilderness is only 17 miles west of the Gila Wilderness and that there is another wilderness only 70 miles to the southwest, with still a third approximately 100 miles from the Blue Primitive Area. These three existing or proposed wildernesses would appear to be ample to satisfy the needs for this form of specialized use.

It is my recommendation, based on the foregoing analysis of the water and timber potential of the area, that the Blue Primitive Area should be returned to normal multiple use management.

cc: William D. Hurst
Regional Forester
U. S. Forest Service
517 Gold Ave. S.W.
Albuquerque, N.M.
87101

O. M. Lassen

OBED M. LASSEN
State Water Commissioner &
State Forester

EXHIBIT

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

Post Office Box 2007
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103
December 16, 1969

Mr. William D. Hurst
Regional Forester
U. S. Forest Service
Federal Building
517 Gold Avenue S.W.
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87101

Dear Bill:

We appreciate the opportunity to review and comment on the Blue Range Wilderness proposal. Our main concern was the possible effects such action might have on our snow survey activities. However, we find that we have no snow courses in the proposed wilderness area and have not planned any.

We have no other comments on the proposal.

Sincerely yours,

Acting

Kenneth L Williams
State Conservationist

cc: Kenneth E. Grant
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

11 DEC 1969

Regional Forester
U.S. Forest Service
517 Gold Avenue, S.W.
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87101

Dear Sir:

In connection with the review of the suitability of the proposal to include 157,208 acres of the Blue Range Primitive Area and 20,031 acres of contiguous lands to the National Wilderness Preservation System described as the 177,239 acres Blue Range Wilderness, Apache National Forest, located in Arizona and New Mexico, we call your attention that consideration be given to aerial access to privately-owned land that may lie within the boundaries of the proposal. Furthermore, we have been advised by the Department of Agriculture that there are approximately 60 cleared areas for landing helicopters used in fire suppression or other emergency situations that are included in the area covered by the proposal.

Aside from the foregoing, the Federal Aviation Administration would have no further interest in the pertinent areas.

Sincerely yours,

Oscar Shienbrood

OSCAR SHIENBROOD
Acting Associate General Counsel
General Legal Services Division, GC-10

EXHIBIT

ADDRESS ONLY THE DIRECTOR,
BUREAU OF SPORT FISHERIES
AND WILDLIFE

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
BUREAU OF SPORT FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

DEC 10 1969

Regional Forester
Forest Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
517 Gold Avenue, S.W.
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87101

Dear Sir:

We reviewed with interest the brochure explaining the Blue Range Wilderness proposal, Apache National Forest, Arizona and New Mexico.

To the best of our knowledge the Arizona (Apache) trout is the only species of animal life within the study area currently listed as rare and endangered. We wish you every success in your efforts to reestablish this rare species in a pure strain.

We concur in your recommendations to continue management for the protection of recreation, wildlife, water and wilderness resources. We are pleased to express our endorsement of the proposal as written.

Sincerely yours,

Director

EXHIBIT

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE
CONSUMER PROTECTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICE
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND 20852

ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL
ADMINISTRATION

DEC 5 1969

Mr. William D. Hurst
Regional Forester
Forest Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87101

Dear Mr. Hurst:

Secretary Finch has asked me to reply to the November 18, 1969, letter from Mr. M. M. Nelson concerning a public hearing to be held to provide public review of the Blue Range Wilderness proposal, Apache National Forest, Arizona and New Mexico. The invitation to attend this hearing or to submit comments is appreciated. Accordingly, we wish to offer the following comments for your consideration.

In reviewing the brochure on this proposal, we note that no provision is being made for the installation of sanitary facilities to serve users of the area. Consideration should be given to providing sanitary facilities and refuse containers at major access points. We understand that guides taking groups into the wilderness area are required to construct temporary toilet facilities which provide for privacy and proper disposal (burial) of the human wastes. If it is found that certain locations within the wilderness area receive steady use, then basic sanitary facilities should be provided to protect the user's health.

All sanitary facilities should be constructed in accordance with the guidelines contained in Public Health Service Publication No. 1195, "Environmental Health Practice in Recreational Areas." We will be glad to provide technical assistance and consultation with your Department on the planning and development of these facilities if requested.

We appreciate the opportunity to present the views of our Department concerning this proposal.

Sincerely yours,

for Chris A. Hansen
Assistant Surgeon General
Commissioner

SAM STEIGER
3RD DISTRICT, ARIZONA

126 CANNON BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
202-225-4576

PAUL G. ROSENBLATT
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

EXHIBIT

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

COMMITTEES:
INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

DISTRICT OFFICE:
5015 FEDERAL BUILDING
PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85025
602-261-4041

November 12, 1969

Mr. William D. Hurst
Regional Forester
U.S. Forest Service, Region 3
U.S. Department of Agriculture
517 Gold Avenue, S. W.
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87101

Dear Bill:

Thanks for sending along a copy of the proposal on the "Blue".

I shall plan to be at the hearing. This wilderness proposal is a bad one in my opinion. For that reason, I hope your people will be well be well prepared, as I'm sure they will.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

Sam Steiger

b

RUSSELL B. LONG, LA., CHAIRMAN
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ALBERT GORE, TENN.
HERMAN E. TALMADGE, GA.
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ABRAHAM RIBICOFF, CONN.
FRED R. HARRIS, OKLA.
HARRY F. BYRD, JR., VA.
JOHN J. WILLIAMS
WALLACE F. BENNETT, UTAH
CARL T. CURTIS, NEBR.
EVERETT MCKINLEY DIRKSEN, ILL.
JACK MILLER, IOWA
LEN B. JORDAN, IDAHO
PAUL J. FANNIN, ARIZ.
TOM VAIL, CHIEF COUNSEL

EXHIBIT

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

October 13, 1969

Mr. William D. Hurst
Regional Forester
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
517 Gold Avenue, S. W.
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87101

Dear Mr. Hurst:

Thank you very much for your letter and enclosures regarding the Blue Range Primitive Area.

I appreciate your bringing this to my attention. I have forwarded this information on to members of my staff in Arizona for the comments of persons who would be affected.

Again, my thanks for writing to me.

With best wishes.

Sincerely,

Paul Fannin

Paul Fannin
United States Senator

PF/wc

MORRIS K. UDALL
2D DISTRICT OF ARIZONA

COMMITTEES:
INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS
POST OFFICE AND CIVIL SERVICE

EXHIBIT

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

October 10, 1969

Mr. William D. Hurst
Regional Forester
U.S. Department of Agriculture
517 Gold Avenue, SW
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87101

Dear Mr. Hurst:

Thanks for your letter and informative enclosure on the proposed Blue Range Wilderness. While I generally favor this proposal and would welcome a wilderness area in Arizona, I don't feel that it is yet a suitable time for me to testify on this matter. I will, however, want to read over the testimony presented at the Springerville hearing and other relevant materials which might be of use if this matter comes before the Congress.

Sincerely,

Morris K. Udall

bag

EXHIBIT

CLINTON P. ANDERSON, N. MEX., CHAIR
RICHARD B. RUSSELL, GA.
WARREN G. MAGNUSON, WASH.
STUART SYMINGTON, MO.
JOHN C. STENNIS, MISS.
STEPHEN M. YOUNG, OHIO
THOMAS J. DODD, CONN.
HOWARD W. CANNON, NEV.
SPESSARD L. HOLLAND, FLA.
MARGARET CHASE SMITH, MAINE
CARL T. CURTIS, NEBR.
MARK O. HATFIELD, OREG.
BARRY GOLDWATER, ARIZ.
CHARLES MC C. MATHIAS, JR. MD.
WILLIAM B. SAXBE, OHIO
JAMES J. GEHRIG, STAFF DIRECTOR

United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON
AERONAUTICAL AND SPACE SCIENCES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

October 9, 1969

Mr. William D. Hurst
Regional Forester
Department of Agriculture
517 Gold Avenue, S.W.
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87101

Dear Bill:

I appreciate your letter of September 30 and the background material on the Blue Range Primitive Area in the Apache National Forest. This will be very helpful to me when this matter is referred to Congress for consideration. Thank you very much.

Sincerely yours,

Clinton P. Anderson

CPA/wor

EXHIBIT

The Wilderness Society 5850 E. Jewell Avenue, Denver, Colorado 80222
Western Regional Office

JOINT ANNOUNCEMENT OF WILDERNESS HEARINGS

Grand Canyon Chapter
Sierra Club

Rio Grande Chapter
Sierra Club

Conservation Committee
Maricopa County Audubon Society

Tucson Audubon Society

The Wilderness Society

New Mexico Mountain Club

Conservation Committee
Arizonans for Water Without Waste

Conservation Committee
Arizona Mountaineering Club

Southern Arizona Hiking Club

OPPORTUNITY TO VOICE YOUR VIEWS ON THE

PROPOSED BLUE RANGE WILDERNESS

9 A.M. FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1969
Catron County Courthouse
Reserve, New Mexico

9 A.M. SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1969
VFW Hall
Springerville, Arizona

(Both hearing records open for letters until January 20)

The U. S. Forest Service has scheduled two public hearings on its proposal to place the Blue Range Primitive Area with certain additions and exclusions in the National Wilderness Preservation System as the Blue Range Wilderness. The Blue Range is the fourth and last Primitive Area in Arizona to be reviewed under the provisions of the Wilderness Act and the first Primitive Area in New Mexico to receive such consideration. Those opposing wilderness for this exceptionally beautiful area are expected to be present in force at the hearings. Strong, united expressions of support must be made by conservationists if this important wilderness is to be preserved.

The "Blue," as it is known locally, straddles the Arizona-New Mexico state line about 23 miles north of Clifton, Arizona, 30 miles south of Springerville, Arizona, and 65 miles northwest of Silver City, New Mexico. The majestic Mogollon Rim -- the "Tonto Rim" of Zane Grey's novels -- crosses the area from east to west, separating the hot, arid desert from the cool, timbered upland. The rim is cut by the Blue River and its spectacular canyon. Eons of erosion have broken down the rim here at its eastern end into a jumbled, broken and wild country of quiet canyons, stark ridges, green forests and rugged breaks covered with pinyon and juniper.

Elevations range from 9,100 feet above the rim in the northwest to 4,500 feet where the Blue River crosses the southern boundary. This rapid change in elevation exposes several interesting and unique ecological and geological associations. Unusual rock

formations are common. Several small perennial streams above the rim provide a rare opportunity for fishermen to enjoy angling in a primitive setting. The proposed wilderness provides habitat for Rocky Mountain mule deer, Coues white-tailed deer, Nelson's elk, javelina, mountain lion, bear, bobcat and a great variety of smaller game animals as well as other mammals and birds.

The Blue Range is not well known to most Arizonans and New Mexicans. Compared to the nearby White Mountain region it is virtually forgotten. Perhaps this has been good for the Blue for, in an era of development, the area has retained its unspoiled remoteness. The wild, rugged region offers innumerable opportunities for camping, hiking, hunting, backpacking, horseback riding, photography and nature study, as well as some fishing. Here the visitor can virtually isolate himself from the stresses of modern civilization.

TWO FOREST SERVICE ADDITIONS ENDORSED

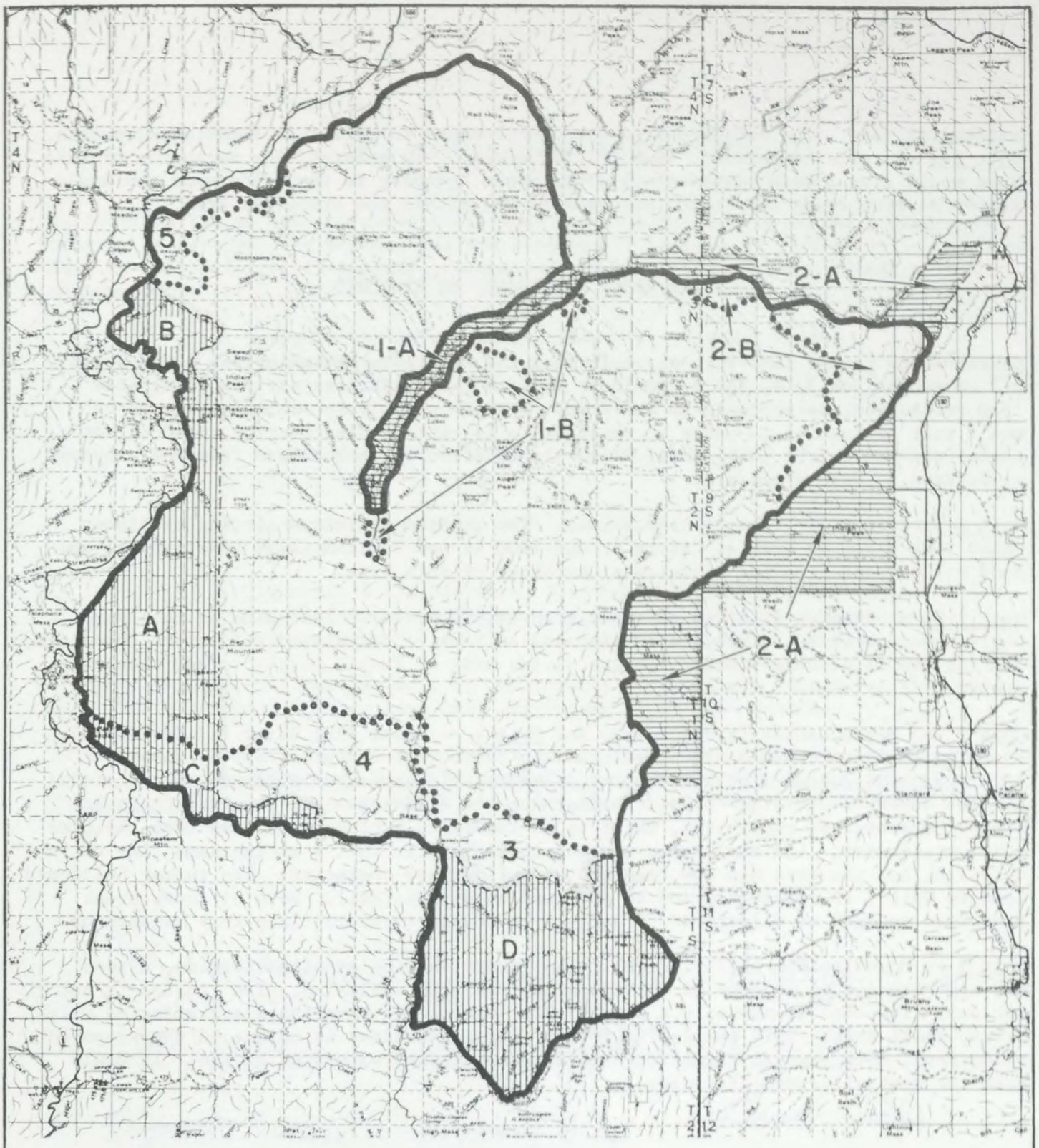
Conservation organizations in Arizona and New Mexico and The Wilderness Society strongly endorse the Forest Service's plan to add 20,031 acres in two units to the proposed wilderness (see map). These two additions, Unit A (16,776 acres) and Unit B (3,255 acres), would bring into the wilderness the headwaters of KP, Raspberry, Strayhorse and Rousensock Creeks, protecting almost their entire drainages and much of the western skyline. The western boundary would be placed along topographic features in contrast to the present Primitive Area boundary which follows legal subdivisions. (A copy of the Forest Service proposal may be obtained by writing the Regional Forester, U. S. Forest Service, 517 Gold Avenue, SW, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87101.)

TWO OTHER ADDITIONS PROPOSED

The Sierra Club and The Wilderness Society have joined with local conservation groups in recommending the addition of two other units to the wilderness. Unit C, Squaw Creek (4,210 acres), is contiguous to addition A and would protect the headwaters of Squaw Creek. Its addition would place all of the southwestern wilderness boundary on a prominent topographic divide. Unit D, Maple-Bullard Peaks (20,800 acres), includes Maple and Bullard Peaks and the wild and scenic canyons which drain their western slopes. Its rugged mountain mass, forming the southwestern skyline of the proposed wilderness, differs in character from the mountains to the north.

TWO FOREST SERVICE EXCLUSIONS PARTIALLY SUPPORTED

Conservation organizations do not object to the following portions of exclusions 1 and 2 proposed by the Forest Service: Unit 1-A -- Upper Blue River (1,760 acres). This corridor along the upper part of the Blue River does not qualify for wilderness protection at this time because it includes occupied ranches, a power line, and a



BLUE RANGE WILDERNESS (PROPOSED)

Wilderness Boundary Recommended by Arizona & New Mexico Conservationists & The Wilderness Society

Wilderness Boundary Proposed by the U. S. Forest Service

Primitive Area Boundary

Addition

Deletion

Scale: 1" = 4 miles

maintained road. The excluded area should encompass no more than these developments. Unit 2-A -- Alma Mesa-Indian Peak (21,773 acres). In general, the exclusion of this unit would give a more satisfactory topographic boundary to the wilderness and would remove several roads and range improvements now within the Primitive Area.

FIVE AREAS SHOULD NOT BE EXCLUDED

Conservation groups feel very strongly that the remainder of exclusions 1 and 2 and all of exclusions 3, 4, and 5 should be kept in the wilderness and not eliminated from protection, as proposed by the Forest Service. The very minimal evidence of man's past activities in parts of these units is rapidly disappearing and does not constitute sufficient justification for the deletion of these areas from the proposed wilderness. These areas are:

Unit 1-B -- Sawmill Canyon (2,445 acres). The limited selective cutting of timber which took place in Sawmill Canyon around 1900 is now substantially unnoticeable and does not detract from the wilderness character of this area.

Unit 2-B -- Chimney Rock Canyon-Pup Canyon (7,670 acres). Inclusion of this unit would retain within the proposed wilderness an area of undisputed wilderness character, placing the wilderness boundary on the divide east of Pueblo Creek, rather than following this stream.

Unit 3 -- Maple Canyon (4,851 acres) and Unit 4 -- Lower Blue River (11,844 acres). These units encompass the area identified in the U. S. Geological Survey mineral report as having some mineral resource potential. However, no evidence of commercial mineral deposits was discovered. Inasmuch as the Wilderness Act permits continued mineral exploration until 1984, there is no reason to exclude this area from the proposed wilderness. Limited timber cutting took place in Unit 4 at the same time as in Unit 1-B, and the area has now regained its wilderness character. The former bulldozed road in Unit 3 is impassable and is now used as a pack trail. Both of these areas have been managed as wilderness. There is no reason to discontinue this management.

Unit 5 -- Mogollon Rim (2,759 acres). The Forest Service mentions logging, a road and some erosion in meadows as justification for this exclusion. The erosion is not serious. The road is now only a trail. The logging was by mistake and affected only a very small area. This spruce-fir forest with its meadows is unique in the proposed wilderness. The present Primitive Area boundary is the watershed divide. It would make the best wilderness boundary.

ROAD PROPOSAL SHOULD BE DROPPED

Conservationists are also strongly opposing proposals for a road down the full length of the Blue River which would bisect the proposed wilderness. The Blue Range is paralleled on the east by U. S. Highway 180 and on the west by U. S. Highway 666. A third north-south road, along the Blue River, is not necessary to provide adequate access to the wilderness area and would cause major problems in wilderness management of the bisected areas.

YOUR VOICE IS NEEDED FOR WILDERNESS

It is vital for as many conservationists as possible to testify at the December 19 hearing at Reserve, New Mexico, and the December 20 hearing at Springerville, Arizona. Here is the position, in summary, recommended by the organizations listed on this announcement:

1. Support the Forest Service additions A and B to the wilderness.

2. Agree to the Forest Service deletions of Units 1-A and 2-A.

3. Oppose deletion of Units 1-B, 2-B, 3, 4 and 5 as proposed by the Regional Forester.

4. Strongly urge extending the wilderness boundaries to include Units C and D.

5. Advocate a 231,818-acre Blue Range Wilderness, instead of a 177,139-acre wilderness as proposed by the Forest Service. (The present Primitive Area comprises 210,310 acres.)

A strong showing by groups as well as individuals is extremely important. We emphasize the importance of presenting oral statements at the two hearings.

If you cannot testify in person, please send a letter supporting these recommendations to Regional Forester, U. S. Forest Service, 517 Gold Avenue, SW, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87101 before next January 20. Ask that your letter be made a part of the official hearing record.

John Ricker

John Ricker, Chairman
Grand Canyon Chapter
Sierra Club
555 West Catalina Drive
Phoenix, Arizona 85013

Peggy Spaw

Peggy Spaw, Chairman
Conservation Committee
Maricopa County Audubon Society
1505 East Cherry Lynn Drive
Phoenix, Arizona 85014

Carolyn Carr

Carolyn Carr, Chairman
Wilderness Committee
Arizonans for Water Without Waste
P.O. Box 17117
Tucson, Arizona 85710

Clifton R. Merritt

Clifton R. Merritt
Director of Field Services
The Wilderness Society
5850 East Jewell Avenue
Denver, Colorado 80222

Charles G. Graf

Charles Graf, Chairman
Conservation Committee
Arizona Mountaineering Club
8418 East Roanoke Avenue
Scottsdale, Arizona 85257

Brant Calkin

Brant Calkin, Chairman
Rio Grande Chapter
Sierra Club
Rt. 1, Box 267
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Robert Kyrlack

Robert Kyrlack, President
New Mexico Mountain Club
P.O. Box 4151
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87106

Randell J. Sholes

Randell J. Sholes, President
Southern Arizona Hiking Club
P.O. Box 12122
Tucson, Arizona 85711

William L. Harrison

William C. Harrison, President
Tucson Audubon Society
P.O. Box 866
Nogales, Arizona 85621

APPENDIX C

Public Law 88-577
88th Congress, S. 4
September 3, 1964

An Act

To establish a National Wilderness Preservation System for the permanent good of the whole people, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

Wilderness Act.

SHORT TITLE

SECTION 1. This Act may be cited as the "Wilderness Act".

WILDERNESS SYSTEM ESTABLISHED STATEMENT OF POLICY

SEC. 2. (a) In order to assure that an increasing population, accompanied by expanding settlement and growing mechanization, does not occupy and modify all areas within the United States and its possessions, leaving no lands designated for preservation and protection in their natural condition, it is hereby declared to be the policy of the Congress to secure for the American people of present and future generations the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness. For this purpose there is hereby established a National Wilderness Preservation System to be composed of federally owned areas designated by Congress as "wilderness areas", and these shall be administered for the use and enjoyment of the American people in such manner as will leave them unimpaired for future use and enjoyment as wilderness, and so as to provide for the protection of these areas, the preservation of their wilderness character, and for the gathering and dissemination of information regarding their use and enjoyment as wilderness; and no Federal lands shall be designated as "wilderness areas" except as provided for in this Act or by a subsequent Act.

(b) The inclusion of an area in the National Wilderness Preservation System notwithstanding, the area shall continue to be managed by the Department and agency having jurisdiction thereover immediately before its inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System unless otherwise provided by Act of Congress. No appropriation shall be available for the payment of expenses or salaries for the administration of the National Wilderness Preservation System as a separate unit nor shall any appropriations be available for additional personnel stated as being required solely for the purpose of managing or administering areas solely because they are included within the National Wilderness Preservation System.

78 STAT. 890.
78 STAT. 891.

DEFINITION OF WILDERNESS

(c) A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammeled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain. An area of wilderness is further defined to mean in this Act an area of undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions and which (1) generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable; (2) has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation; (3) has at least five thousand acres of land or is of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition; and (4) may also contain ecological, geo-

logical, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

NATIONAL WILDERNESS PRESERVATION SYSTEM—EXTENT OF SYSTEM

SEC. 3. (a) All areas within the national forests classified at least 30 days before the effective date of this Act by the Secretary of Agriculture or the Chief of the Forest Service as "wilderness", "wild", or "canoe" are hereby designated as wilderness areas. The Secretary of Agriculture shall—

(1) Within one year after the effective date of this Act, file a map and legal description of each wilderness area with the Interior and Insular Affairs Committees of the United States Senate and the House of Representatives, and such descriptions shall have the same force and effect as if included in this Act: *Provided, however*, That correction of clerical and typographical errors in such legal descriptions and maps may be made.

(2) Maintain, available to the public, records pertaining to said wilderness areas, including maps and legal descriptions, copies of regulations governing them, copies of public notices of, and reports submitted to Congress regarding pending additions, eliminations, or modifications. Maps, legal descriptions, and regulations pertaining to wilderness areas within their respective jurisdictions also shall be available to the public in the offices of regional foresters, national forest supervisors, and forest rangers.

Classification.

(b) The Secretary of Agriculture shall, within ten years after the enactment of this Act, review, as to its suitability or nonsuitability for preservation as wilderness, each area in the national forests classified on the effective date of this Act by the Secretary of Agriculture or the Chief of the Forest Service as "primitive" and report his findings to the President. The President shall advise the United States Senate and House of Representatives of his recommendations with respect to the designation as "wilderness" or other reclassification of each area on which review has been completed, together with maps and a definition of boundaries. Such advice shall be given with respect to not less than one-third of all the areas now classified as "primitive" within three years after the enactment of this Act, not less than two-thirds within seven years after the enactment of this Act, and the remaining areas within ten years after the enactment of this Act. Each recommendation of the President for designation as "wilderness" shall become effective only if so provided by an Act of Congress. Areas classified as "primitive" on the effective date of this Act shall continue to be administered under the rules and regulations affecting such areas on the effective date of this Act until Congress has determined otherwise. Any such area may be increased in size by the President at the time he submits his recommendations to the Congress by not more than five thousand acres with no more than one thousand two hundred and eighty acres of such increase in any one compact unit; if it is proposed to increase the size of any such area by more than five thousand acres or by more than one thousand two hundred and eighty acres in any one compact unit the increase in size shall not become effective until acted upon by Congress. Nothing herein contained shall limit the President in proposing, as part of his recommendations to Congress, the alteration of existing boundaries of primitive areas or recommending the addition of any contiguous area of national forest lands predominantly of wilderness value. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture may complete his review and delete such area as may be necessary, but not to exceed seven thousand acres, from the southern tip of the Gore Range-Eagles Nest Primitive Area,

Presidential recommendation to Congress.

Congressional approval.

78 STAT. 891.
78 STAT. 892.

Colorado, if the Secretary determines that such action is in the public interest.

Report to President.

(c) Within ten years after the effective date of this Act the Secretary of the Interior shall review every roadless area of five thousand contiguous acres or more in the national parks, monuments and other units of the national park system and every such area of, and every roadless island within, the national wildlife refuges and game ranges, under his jurisdiction on the effective date of this Act and shall report to the President his recommendation as to the suitability or nonsuitability of each such area or island for preservation as wilderness. The President shall advise the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of his recommendation with respect to the designation as wilderness of each such area or island on which review has been completed, together with a map thereof and a definition of its boundaries. Such advice shall be given with respect to not less than one-third of the areas and islands to be reviewed under this subsection within three years after enactment of this Act, not less than two-thirds within seven years of enactment of this Act, and the remainder within ten years of enactment of this Act. A recommendation of the President for designation as wilderness shall become effective only if so provided by an Act of Congress. Nothing contained herein shall, by implication or otherwise, be construed to lessen the present statutory authority of the Secretary of the Interior with respect to the maintenance of roadless areas within units of the national park system.

Presidential recommendation to Congress.

Congressional approval.

Suitability.

(d) (1) The Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior shall, prior to submitting any recommendations to the President with respect to the suitability of any area for preservation as wilderness—

Publication in Federal Register.

(A) give such public notice of the proposed action as they deem appropriate, including publication in the Federal Register and in a newspaper having general circulation in the area or areas in the vicinity of the affected land;

Hearings.

(B) hold a public hearing or hearings at a location or locations convenient to the area affected. The hearings shall be announced through such means as the respective Secretaries involved deem appropriate, including notices in the Federal Register and in newspapers of general circulation in the area: *Provided*, That if the lands involved are located in more than one State, at least one hearing shall be held in each State in which a portion of the land lies;

Publication in Federal Register.

78 STAT. 892.
78 STAT. 893.

(C) at least thirty days before the date of a hearing advise the Governor of each State and the governing board of each county, or in Alaska the borough, in which the lands are located, and Federal departments and agencies concerned, and invite such officials and Federal agencies to submit their views on the proposed action at the hearing or by no later than thirty days following the date of the hearing.

(2) Any views submitted to the appropriate Secretary under the provisions of (1) of this subsection with respect to any area shall be included with any recommendations to the President and to Congress with respect to such area.

Proposed modification.

(e) Any modification or adjustment of boundaries of any wilderness area shall be recommended by the appropriate Secretary after public notice of such proposal and public hearing or hearings as provided in subsection (d) of this section. The proposed modification or adjustment shall then be recommended with map and description thereof to the President. The President shall advise the United States Senate and the House of Representatives of his recommendations with respect to such modification or adjustment and such recom-

mendations shall become effective only in the same manner as provided for in subsections (b) and (c) of this section.

USE OF WILDERNESS AREAS

SEC. 4. (a) The purposes of this Act are hereby declared to be within and supplemental to the purposes for which national forests and units of the national park and national wildlife refuge systems are established and administered and—

(1) Nothing in this Act shall be deemed to be in interference with the purpose for which national forests are established as set forth in the Act of June 4, 1897 (30 Stat. 11), and the Multiple-Use Sustained-Yield Act of June 12, 1960 (74 Stat. 215).

16 USC 475.
16 USC 528-531.

(2) Nothing in this Act shall modify the restrictions and provisions of the Shipstead-Nolan Act (Public Law 539, Seventy-first Congress, July 10, 1930; 46 Stat. 1020), the Thye-Blatnik Act (Public Law 733, Eighth Congress, June 22, 1948; 62 Stat. 568), and the Humphrey-Thye-Blatnik-Andresen Act (Public Law 607, Eighty-fourth Congress, June 22, 1956; 70 Stat. 326), as applying to the Superior National Forest or the regulations of the Secretary of Agriculture.

16 USC 577-577b.
16 USC 577c-577h.
16 USC 577d-1, 577g-1, 577h.

(3) Nothing in this Act shall modify the statutory authority under which units of the national park system are created. Further, the designation of any area of any park, monument, or other unit of the national park system as a wilderness area pursuant to this Act shall in no manner lower the standards evolved for the use and preservation of such park, monument, or other unit of the national park system in accordance with the Act of August 25, 1916, the statutory authority under which the area was created, or any other Act of Congress which might pertain to or affect such area, including, but not limited to, the Act of June 8, 1906 (34 Stat. 225; 16 U.S.C. 432 et seq.); section 3(2) of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 796(2)); and the Act of August 21, 1935 (49 Stat. 666; 16 U.S.C. 461 et seq.).

39 Stat. 535.
16 USC 1 et seq.
41 Stat. 1063.
49 Stat. 838.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this Act, each agency administering any area designated as wilderness shall be responsible for preserving the wilderness character of the area and shall so administer such area for such other purposes for which it may have been established as also to preserve its wilderness character. Except as otherwise provided in this Act, wilderness areas shall be devoted to the public purposes of recreational, scenic, scientific, educational, conservation, and historical use.

78 STAT. 893.
78 STAT. 894.

PROHIBITION OF CERTAIN USES

(c) Except as specifically provided for in this Act, and subject to existing private rights, there shall be no commercial enterprise and no permanent road within any wilderness area designated by this Act and, except as necessary to meet minimum requirements for the administration of the area for the purpose of this Act (including measures required in emergencies involving the health and safety of persons within the area), there shall be no temporary road, no use of motor vehicles, motorized equipment or motorboats, no landing of aircraft, no other form of mechanical transport, and no structure or installation within any such area.

SPECIAL PROVISIONS

(d) The following special provisions are hereby made:

(1) Within wilderness areas designated by this Act the use of aircraft or motorboats, where these uses have already become established, may be permitted to continue subject to such restrictions as the Secretary of Agriculture deems desirable. In addition, such measures may be taken as may be necessary in the control of fire, insects, and diseases, subject to such conditions as the Secretary deems desirable.

(2) Nothing in this Act shall prevent within national forest wilderness areas any activity, including prospecting, for the purpose of gathering information about mineral or other resources, if such activity is carried on in a manner compatible with the preservation of the wilderness environment. Furthermore, in accordance with such program as the Secretary of the Interior shall develop and conduct in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture, such areas shall be surveyed on a planned, recurring basis consistent with the concept of wilderness preservation by the Geological Survey and the Bureau of Mines to determine the mineral values, if any, that may be present; and the results of such surveys shall be made available to the public and submitted to the President and Congress.

(3) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Act, until midnight December 31, 1983, the United States mining laws and all laws pertaining to mineral leasing shall, to the same extent as applicable prior to the effective date of this Act, extend to those national forest lands designated by this Act as "wilderness areas"; subject, however, to such reasonable regulations governing ingress and egress as may be prescribed by the Secretary of Agriculture consistent with the use of the land for mineral location and development and exploration, drilling, and production, and use of land for transmission lines, waterlines, telephone lines, or facilities necessary in exploring, drilling, producing, mining, and processing operations, including where essential the use of mechanized ground or air equipment and restoration as near as practicable of the surface of the land disturbed in performing prospecting, location, and, in oil and gas leasing, discovery work, exploration, drilling, and production, as soon as they have served their purpose. Mining locations lying within the boundaries of said wilderness areas shall be held and used solely for mining or processing operations and uses reasonably incident thereto; and hereafter, subject to valid existing rights, all patents issued under the mining laws of the United States affecting national forest lands designated by this Act as wilderness areas shall convey title to the mineral deposits within the claim, together with the right to cut and use so much of the mature timber therefrom as may be needed in the extraction, removal, and beneficiation of the mineral deposits, if needed timber is not otherwise reasonably available, and if the timber is cut under sound principles of forest management as defined by the national forest rules and regulations, but each such patent shall reserve to the United States all title in or to the surface of the lands and products thereof, and no use of the surface of the claim or the resources therefrom not reasonably required for carrying on mining or prospecting shall be allowed except as otherwise expressly provided in this Act: *Provided*, That, unless hereafter specifically authorized, no patent within wilderness areas designated by this Act shall issue after December 31, 1983, except for the valid claims existing on or before December 31, 1983. Mining claims located after the effective date of this Act within the boundaries of wilderness areas designated by this Act shall create no rights in excess of those rights which may be patented under the

Mineral leases, claims, etc.

78 STAT. 894.
78 STAT. 895.

provisions of this subsection. Mineral leases, permits, and licenses covering lands within national forest wilderness areas designated by this Act shall contain such reasonable stipulations as may be prescribed by the Secretary of Agriculture for the protection of the wilderness character of the land consistent with the use of the land for the purposes for which they are leased, permitted, or licensed. Subject to valid rights then existing, effective January 1, 1984, the minerals in lands designated by this Act as wilderness areas are withdrawn from all forms of appropriation under the mining laws and from disposition under all laws pertaining to mineral leasing and all amendments thereto.

Water resources.

(4) Within wilderness areas in the national forests designated by this Act, (1) the President may, within a specific area and in accordance with such regulations as he may deem desirable, authorize prospecting for water resources, the establishment and maintenance of reservoirs, water-conservation works, power projects, transmission lines, and other facilities needed in the public interest, including the road construction and maintenance essential to development and use thereof, upon his determination that such use or uses in the specific area will better serve the interests of the United States and the people thereof than will its denial; and (2) the grazing of livestock, where established prior to the effective date of this Act, shall be permitted to continue subject to such reasonable regulations as are deemed necessary by the Secretary of Agriculture.

(5) Other provisions of this Act to the contrary notwithstanding, the management of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area, formerly designated as the Superior, Little Indian Sioux, and Caribou Roadless Areas, in the Superior National Forest, Minnesota, shall be in accordance with regulations established by the Secretary of Agriculture in accordance with the general purpose of maintaining, without unnecessary restrictions on other uses, including that of timber, the primitive character of the area, particularly in the vicinity of lakes, streams, and portages: *Provided*, That nothing in this Act shall preclude the continuance within the area of any already established use of motorboats.

(6) Commercial services may be performed within the wilderness areas designated by this Act to the extent necessary for activities which are proper for realizing the recreational or other wilderness purposes of the areas.

(7) Nothing in this Act shall constitute an express or implied claim or denial on the part of the Federal Government as to exemption from State water laws.

78 STAT. 895.

78 STAT. 896.

(8) Nothing in this Act shall be construed as affecting the jurisdiction or responsibilities of the several States with respect to wildlife and fish in the national forests.

STATE AND PRIVATE LANDS WITHIN WILDERNESS AREAS

SEC. 5. (a) In any case where State-owned or privately owned land is completely surrounded by national forest lands within areas designated by this Act as wilderness, such State or private owner shall be given such rights as may be necessary to assure adequate access to such State-owned or privately owned land by such State or private owner and their successors in interest, or the State-owned land or privately owned land shall be exchanged for federally owned land in the same State of approximately equal value under authorities available to the Secretary of Agriculture: *Provided, however*, That the United States shall not transfer to a State or private owner any mineral interests unless the State or private owner relinquishes or

Transfers, restriction.

causes to be relinquished to the United States the mineral interest in the surrounded land.

(b) In any case where valid mining claims or other valid occupancies are wholly within a designated national forest wilderness area, the Secretary of Agriculture shall, by reasonable regulations consistent with the preservation of the area as wilderness, permit ingress and egress to such surrounded areas by means which have been or are being customarily enjoyed with respect to other such areas similarly situated.

(c) Subject to the appropriation of funds by Congress, the Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to acquire privately owned land within the perimeter of any area designated by this Act as wilderness if (1) the owner concurs in such acquisition or (2) the acquisition is specifically authorized by Congress. Acquisition.

GIFTS, BEQUESTS, AND CONTRIBUTIONS

SEC. 6. (a) The Secretary of Agriculture may accept gifts or bequests of land within wilderness areas designated by this Act for preservation as wilderness. The Secretary of Agriculture may also accept gifts or bequests of land adjacent to wilderness areas designated by this Act for preservation as wilderness if he has given sixty days advance notice thereof to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. Land accepted by the Secretary of Agriculture under this section shall become part of the wilderness area involved. Regulations with regard to any such land may be in accordance with such agreements, consistent with the policy of this Act, as are made at the time of such gift, or such conditions, consistent with such policy, as may be included in, and accepted with, such bequest.

(b) The Secretary of Agriculture or the Secretary of the Interior is authorized to accept private contributions and gifts to be used to further the purposes of this Act.

ANNUAL REPORTS

SEC. 7. At the opening of each session of Congress, the Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior shall jointly report to the President for transmission to Congress on the status of the wilderness system, including a list and descriptions of the areas in the system, regulations in effect, and other pertinent information, together with any recommendations they may care to make.

Approved September 3, 1964.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

HOUSE REPORTS: No. 1538 accompanying H. R. 9070 (Comm. on Interior & Insular Affairs) and No. 1829 (Comm. of Conference).
SENATE REPORT No. 109 (Comm. on Interior & Insular Affairs).
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:
Vol. 109 (1963): Apr. 4, 8, considered in Senate.
Apr. 9, considered and passed Senate.
Vol. 110 (1964): July 28, considered in House.
July 30, considered and passed House, amended, in lieu of H. R. 9070.
Aug. 20, House and Senate agreed to conference report.

APPENDIX D

TITLE 36 - PARKS, FORESTS, AND MEMORIALS

Chapter II - Forest Service, Department of Agriculture
Part 251 - Land Uses

Administration and Use of National Forest Wilderness and National Forest Primitive Areas

In Part 251 of Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, Sections 251.20, 251.21, and 251.21a are hereby revoked; and Sections 251.70 to 251.84 and Section 251.86 are added, under the heading "Administration and Use of National Forest Wilderness and National Forest Primitive Areas," as follows:

Section 251.70 - Definition

National Forest Wilderness shall consist of those units of the National Wilderness Preservation System which at least 30 days before the Wilderness Act of September 3, 1964, were designated as Wilderness and Wild under Secretary of Agriculture's Regulations U-1 and U-2 (36 C.F.R. 251.20, 251.21), the Boundary Waters Canoe Area as designated under Regulation U-3 (36 C.F.R. 251.22), and such other areas of the National Forests as may later be added to the System by act of Congress. Sections 251.70 to 251.84 apply to all National Forest units now or hereafter in the National Wilderness Preservation System, including the Boundary Waters Canoe Area, Superior National Forest, except as that area is subject to Section 251.85.

Section 251.71 - Objectives

Except as otherwise provided in these regulations, National Forest Wilderness shall be so administered as to meet the public purposes of recreational, scenic, scientific, educational, conservation, and historical uses; and it shall also be administered for such other purposes for which it may have been established in such a manner as to preserve and protect its wilderness character. In carrying out such purposes, National Forest Wilderness resources shall be managed to promote, perpetuate, and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land and its specific values of solitude, physical and mental challenge, scientific study, inspiration, and primitive recreation.

To that end:

a. Natural ecological succession will be allowed to operate freely to the extent feasible.

b. Wilderness will be made available for human use to the optimum extent consistent with the maintenance of primitive conditions.

c. In resolving conflicts in resource use, wilderness values will be dominant to the extent not limited by the Wilderness Act, subsequent establishing legislation, or these regulations.

Section 251.72 - Control of Uses

To the extent not limited by the Wilderness Act, subsequent legislation establishing a particular unit, or these regulations, the Chief, Forest Service, may prescribe measures necessary to control fire, insects, and disease and measures which may be used in emergencies involving the health and safety of persons or damage to property and may require permits for, or otherwise limit or regulate, any use of National Forest land, including, but not limited to, camping, campfires, and grazing of recreation livestock.

Section 251.73 - Maintenance of Records

The Chief, Forest Service, in accordance with Section 3(a)(2) of the Wilderness Act, shall establish uniform procedures and standards for the maintenance and availability to the public of records pertaining to National Forest Wilderness, including maps and legal descriptions; copies of regulations governing Wilderness; and copies of public notices and reports submitted to Congress regarding pending additions, eliminations, or modifications. Copies of such information pertaining to National Forest Wilderness within their respective jurisdictions shall be available to the public in the appropriate offices of the Regional Foresters, Forest Supervisors, and Forest Rangers.

Section 251.74 - Establishment, Modification, or Elimination

National Forest Wilderness will be established, modified, or eliminated in accordance with the provisions of Sections 3(b), (d), and (e) of the Wilderness Act. The Chief, Forest Service, shall arrange for issuing public notices, appointing hearing officers, holding public hearings, and notifying the Governors of the States concerned and the governing board of each county in which the lands involved are located.

a. At least 30 days' public notice shall be given of the proposed action and intent to hold a public hearing. Public notice shall include publication in the Federal Register and in a newspaper of general circulation in the vicinity of the land involved.

b. Public hearings shall be held at locations convenient to the area affected. If the land involved is in more than one State, at least one hearing shall be held in each State in which a portion of the land lies.

c. A record of the public hearing and the views submitted subsequent to public notice and prior to the close of the public hearing shall be included with any recommendations to the President and to the Congress with respect to any such action.

d. At least 30 days before the date of the public hearing, suitable advice shall be furnished to the Governor of each State and the

governing board of each county or, in Alaska, the borough in which the lands are located, and Federal Departments and agencies concerned; and such officers or Federal agencies shall be invited to submit their views on the proposed action at the hearing or in writing by not later than 30 days following the date of the hearing. Any views submitted in response to such advice with respect to any proposed Wilderness action shall be included with any recommendations to the President and to the Congress with respect to any such action.

Section 251.75 - Commercial Enterprises, Roads, Motor Vehicles, Motorized Equipment, Motorboats, Aircraft, Aircraft Landing Facilities, Airdrops, Structures, and Cutting of Trees

Except as provided in the Wilderness Act, subsequent legislation establishing a particular Wilderness unit, or Sections 251.27, 251.28, 251.30, 251.75 (c) and (d), 251.76, 251.77, and 251.81 through 251.85, inclusive, of these regulations, and subject to existing rights, there shall be in National Forest Wilderness no commercial enterprises; no temporary or permanent roads, no aircraft landing strips, no heliports or helispots; no use of motor vehicles, motorized equipment, motorboats, or other forms of mechanical transport; no landing of aircraft; no dropping of materials, supplies, or persons from aircraft; no structures or installations; and no cutting of trees for non-wilderness purposes.

a. "Mechanical transport," as herein used, shall include any contrivance which travels over ground, snow, or water on wheels, tracks, skids, or by flotation and is propelled by a nonliving power source contained or carried on or within the device.

b. "Motorized equipment," as herein used, shall include any machine activated by a nonliving power source, except that small battery-powered, hand-carried devices such as flashlights, shavers, and Geiger counters are not classed as motorized equipment.

c. The Chief, Forest Service, may authorize occupancy and use of National Forest land by officers, employees, agencies, or agents of the Federal, State, and county governments to carry out the purposes of the Wilderness Act and will prescribe conditions under which motorized equipment, mechanical transport, aircraft, aircraft landing strips, heliports, helispots, installations, or structures may be used, transported, or installed by the Forest Service and its agents and by other Federal, State, or county agencies or their agents, to meet the minimum requirements for authorized activities to protect and administer the Wilderness and its resources. The Chief may also prescribe the conditions under which such equipment, transport, aircraft, installations, or structures may be used in emergencies involving the health and safety of persons, damage to property, or other purposes.

d. The Chief, Forest Service, may permit, subject to such restrictions as he deems desirable, the landing of aircraft and the use of motorboats at places within any Wilderness where these uses were established prior to the date the Wilderness was

designated by Congress as a unit of the National Wilderness Preservation System. The Chief may also permit the maintenance of aircraft landing strips, heliports, or helispots which existed when the Wilderness was designated by Congress as a unit of the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Section 251.76 - Grazing of Livestock

The grazing of livestock, where such use was established before the date of legislation which includes an area in the National Wilderness Preservation System, shall be permitted to continue under the general regulations covering grazing of livestock on the National Forests and in accordance with special provisions covering grazing use in units of National Forest Wilderness which the Chief of the Forest Service may precribe for general application in such units or may arrange to have prescribed for individual units.

The Chief, Forest Service, may permit, subject to such conditions as he deems necessary, the maintenance, reconstruction, or relocation of those livestock management improvements and structures which existed within a Wilderness when it was incorporated into the National Wilderness Preservation System. Additional improvements or structures may be built when necessary to protect wilderness values.

Section 251.77 - Permanent Structures and Commercial Services

Motels, summer homes, stores, resorts, organization camps, hunting and fishing lodges, electronic installations, and similar structures and uses are prohibited in National Forest Wilderness. The Chief, Forest Service, may permit temporary structures and commercial services within National Forest Wilderness to the extent necessary for realizing the recreational or other wilderness purposes, which may include, but are not limited to, the public services generally offered by packers, outfitters, and guides.

Section 251.78 - Poisons and Herbicides

Poisons and herbicides will not be used to control wildlife, fish, insects, or plants within any Wilderness except by or under the direct supervision of the Forest Service or other agency designated by the Chief, Forest Service; however, the personal use of household-type insecticides by visitors to provide for health and sanitation is specifically excepted from this prohibition.

Section 251.79 - Jurisdiction over Wildlife and Fish

Nothing in these regulations shall be construed as affecting the jurisdiction or responsibility of the several States with respect to wildlife and fish in the National Forests.

Section 251.80 - Water Rights

Nothing in these regulations constitutes an expressed or implied claim or denial on the part of the Department of Agriculture as to exemption from State water laws.

Section 251.81 - Access to Surrounded State and Private Lands

States or persons, and their successors in interest, who own land completely surrounded by National Forest Wilderness shall be given such rights as may be necessary to assure adequate access to that land. "Adequate access" is defined as the combination of routes and modes of travel which will, as determined by the Forest Service, cause the least lasting impact on the primitive character of the land and at the same time will serve the reasonable purposes for which the State and private land is held or used. Access by routes or modes of travel not available to the general public under these regulations shall be given by written authorization issued by the Forest Service. The authorization will prescribe the means and the routes of travel to and from the privately owned or State-owned land which constitute adequate access and the conditions reasonably necessary to preserve the National Forest Wilderness.

Section 251.82 - Access to Valid Mining Claims or Valid Occupancies

Persons with valid mining claims or other valid occupancies wholly within National Forest Wilderness shall be permitted access to such surrounded claims or occupancies by means consistent with the preservation of National Forest Wilderness which have been or are being customarily used with respect to other such claims or occupancies surrounded by National Forest Wilderness. The Forest Service will, when appropriate, issue permits which shall prescribe the routes of travel to and from the surrounded claims or occupancies, the mode of travel, and other conditions reasonably necessary to preserve the National Forest Wilderness.

Section 251.83 - Mining, Mineral Leases, and Mineral Permits

Notwithstanding any other provisions of these regulations, the United States mining laws and all laws pertaining to mineral leasing shall extend to each National Forest Wilderness for the period specified in the Wilderness Act or subsequent establishing legislation to the same extent they were applicable prior to the date the Wilderness was designated by Congress as a part of the National Wilderness Preservation System.

a. Whoever hereafter locates a mining claim in National Forest Wilderness shall within 30 days thereafter file a written notice of his Post Office address and the location of that mining claim in the office of the Forest Supervisor or District Ranger having jurisdiction over the National Forest land on which the claim is located.

b. Holders of unpatented mining claims validly established on any National Forest Wilderness prior to inclusion of such unit in the National Wilderness Preservation System shall be accorded the rights provided by the United States mining laws as then applicable to the National Forest land involved. Persons locating mining claims in any unit of National Forest Wilderness on or after the date on which the said unit was included in the National Wilderness Preservation System shall be accorded the rights provided by the United States mining laws as applicable to the National Forest land involved and subject to provisions specified in the establishing legislation. All claimants shall comply with reasonable conditions prescribed by the Chief, Forest

Service, for the protection of National Forest resources in accordance with the general purposes of maintaining the National Wilderness Preservation System unimpaired for future use and enjoyment as wilderness and so as to provide for the preservation of its wilderness character; and a performance bond may be required.

(1) Prior to commencing operation or development of any mining claim, or to cutting timber thereon, mining claimants shall file written notice in the office of the Forest Supervisor or District Ranger having jurisdiction over the land involved. Unless within 20 days after such notice is given the Forest Service requires the claimant to furnish operating plans or to accept a permit governing such operations, he may commence operation, development, or timber cutting.

(2) No claimant shall construct roads across National Forest Wilderness unless authorized by the Forest Service. Application to construct a road to a mining claim shall be filed with the Forest Service and shall be accompanied by a plat showing the location of the proposed road and by a description of the type and standard of the road. The Chief, Forest Service, shall, when appropriate, authorize construction of the road as proposed or shall require such changes in location and type and standard of construction as are necessary to safeguard the National Forest resources, including wilderness values, consistent with the use of the land for mineral location, exploration, development, drilling, and production and for transmission lines, waterlines, telephone lines, and processing operations, including, where essential, the use of mechanical transport, aircraft or motorized equipment.

(3) Claimants shall cut timber on mining claims within National Forest Wilderness only for the actual development of the claim or uses reasonably incident thereto. Any severance or removal of timber, other than severance or removal to provide clearance, shall be in accordance with sound principles of forest management and in such a manner as to minimize the adverse effect on the wilderness character of the land.

(4) All claimants shall, in developing and operating their mining claims, take those reasonable measures, including settling ponds, necessary for the disposal of tailings, dumpage, and other deleterious materials or substances to prevent obstruction, pollution, excessive siltation, or deterioration of the land, streams, ponds, lakes, or springs, as may be directed by the Forest Service.

(5) On mining claims validly established prior to inclusion of the land within the National Wilderness Preservation System, claimants shall, as directed by the Forest Service and if application for patent is not pending, take all reasonable measures to remove any improvements no longer needed for mining purposes and which were installed after the land

was designated by Congress as Wilderness and, by appropriate treatment, restore, as nearly as practicable, the original contour of the surface of the land which was disturbed subsequent to the date this regulation is adopted and which is no longer needed in performing location, exploration, drilling, and production and promote its revegetation by natural means. On such part of the claim where restoration to approximately the original contour is not feasible, restoration for such part shall provide a combination of bank slopes and contour gradient conducive to soil stabilization and revegetation by natural means.

(6) On claims validly established after the date the land was included within the National Wilderness Preservation System, claimants shall, as directed by the Forest Service, take all reasonable measures to remove improvements no longer needed for mining purposes and, by appropriate treatment, restore, as near as practicable, the original contour of the surface of the land which was disturbed and which is no longer needed in performing location and exploration, drilling and production, and to revegetate and to otherwise prevent or control accelerated soil erosion.

c. The title to timber on patented claims validly established after the land was included within the National Wilderness Preservation System remains in the United States, subject to a right to cut and use timber for mining purposes. So much of the mature timber may be cut and used as is needed in the extraction, removal, and beneficiation of the mineral deposits, if needed timber is not otherwise reasonably available. The cutting shall comply with the requirements for sound principles of forest management as defined by the National Forest rules and regulations and set forth in stipulations issued by the Chief, Forest Service, which as a minimum incorporate the following basic principles of forest management:

(1) harvesting operations shall be so conducted as to minimize soil movement and damage from water runoff; and

(2) slash shall be disposed of and other precautions shall be taken to minimize damage from forest insects, disease, and fire.

d. Mineral leases, permits, and licenses covering lands within National Forest Wilderness will contain reasonable stipulations for the protection of the wilderness character of the land consistent with the use of the land for purposes for which they are leased, permitted, or licensed. The Chief, Forest Service, shall specify the conditions to be included in such stipulations.

e. Permits shall not be issued for the removal of mineral materials commonly known as "common varieties" under the Materials Act of July 31, 1947, as amended and supplemented (30 U.S.C. 601-604).

Section 251.84 - Prospecting for Minerals and Other Resources

The Chief, Forest Service, shall allow any activity, including prospecting, for the purpose of gathering information about minerals or other resources in National Forest Wilderness except that any such activity for gathering information shall be carried on in a manner compatible with the preservation of the wilderness environment, and except, further, that:

a. No person shall have any right or interest in or to any mineral deposits which may be discovered through prospecting or other information-gathering activity after the legal date on which the United States mining laws and laws pertaining to mineral leasing cease to apply to the specific Wilderness, nor shall any person after such date have any preference in applying for a mineral lease, license, or permit.

b. No overland motor vehicle or other form of mechanical overland transport may be used in connection with prospecting for minerals or any activity for the purpose of gathering information about minerals or other resources except as authorized by the Chief, Forest Service.

c. Any person desiring to use motorized equipment, to land aircraft, or to make substantial excavations for mineral prospecting or for other purposes shall apply in writing to the office of the Forest Supervisor or District Ranger having jurisdiction over the land involved. Excavations shall be considered "substantial" which singularly or collectively exceed 200 cubic feet within any area which can be bounded by a rectangle containing 20 surface acres. Such use or excavation may be authorized by a permit issued by the Forest Service. Such permits may provide for the protection of National Forest resources, including wilderness values, protection of the public, and restoration of disturbed areas, including the posting of performance bonds.

d. Prospecting for water resources and the establishment of new reservoirs, water-conservation works, power projects, transmission lines, and other facilities needed in the public interest and the subsequent maintenance of such facilities, all pursuant to Section 4(d)(4)(1) of the Wilderness Act, will be permitted when and as authorized by the President.

Section 251.86 - National Forest Primitive Areas

Within those areas of National Forests classified as "Primitive" on the effective date of the Wilderness Act, September 3, 1964, there shall be no roads or other provision for motorized transportation, no commercial timber cutting, and no occupancy under special-use permit for hotels, stores, resorts, summer homes, organization camps, hunting and fishing lodges, or similar uses: Provided, That existing roads over National Forest lands reserved from the public domain and roads necessary for the exercise of a statutory right of ingress and egress may be allowed under appropriate conditions determined by the Chief, Forest Service.

Grazing of domestic livestock, development of water storage projects which do not involve road construction, and improvements necessary for the protection of the National Forests may be permitted, subject to such restrictions as the Chief, Forest Service, deems desirable. Within Primitive Areas, when the use is for other than administrative needs of the Forest Service, use by other Federal agencies when authorized by the Chief, and in emergencies, the landing of aircraft and the use of motorboats are prohibited on National Forest land or water unless such use by aircraft or motorboats has already become well established, the use of motor vehicles is prohibited, and the use of other motorized equipment is prohibited except as authorized by the Chief. These restrictions are not intended as limitations on statutory rights of ingress and egress or of prospecting, locating, and developing mineral resources.

(78 Stat.890, 16 U.S.C. 1131-1136; 30 Stat. 35, as amended 16 U.S.C. 551; 74 Stat. 215, 16 U.S.C. 528-531)

Done at Washington, D. C., this 31st day of May, 1966

/s/ Orville L. Freeman
Secretary of Agriculture

U.S.F.S.

A Proposal

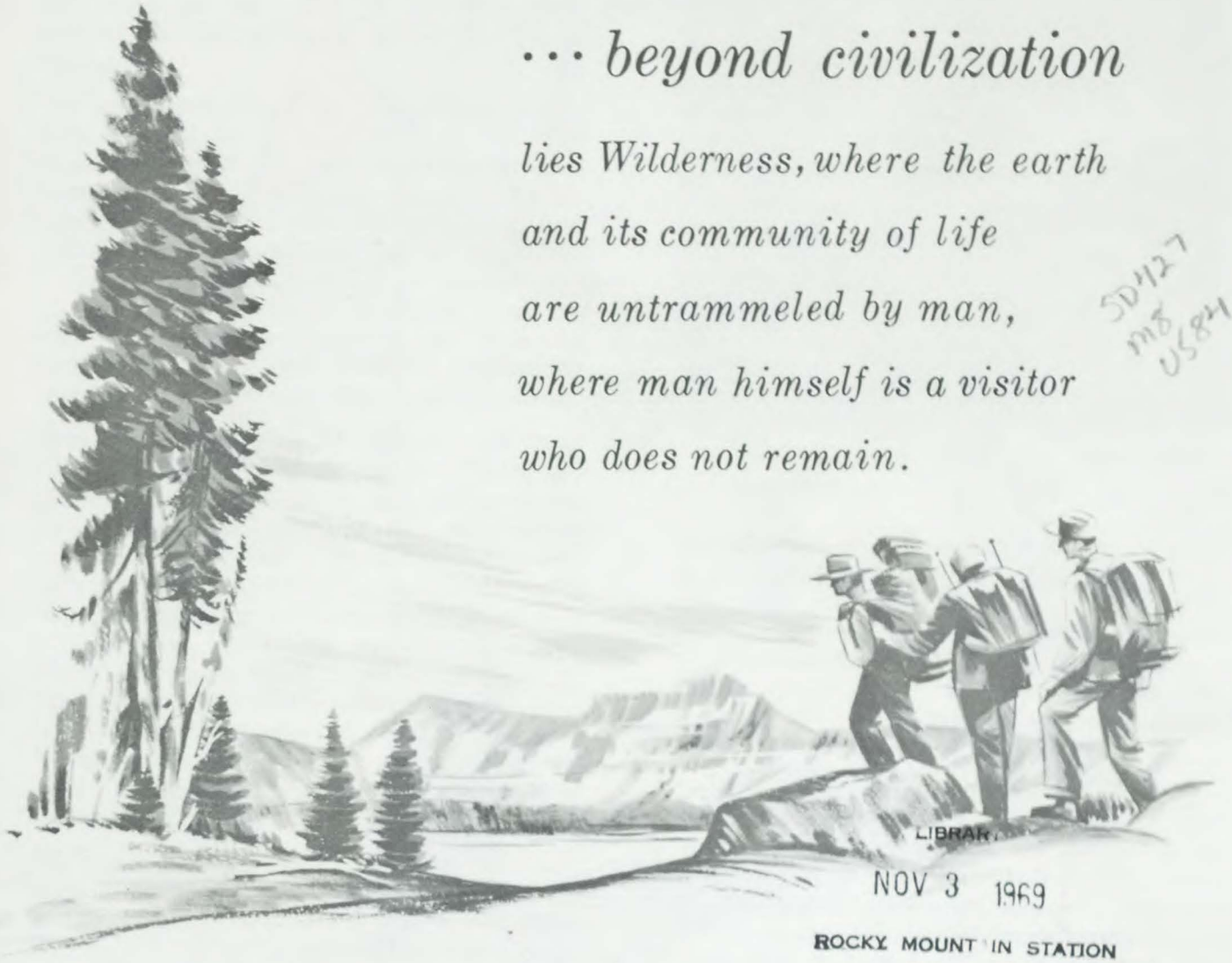
Blue Range Wilderness

Apache National Forest

ARIZONA and NEW MEXICO

··· beyond civilization

lies Wilderness, where the earth
and its community of life
are untrammeled by man,
where man himself is a visitor
who does not remain.



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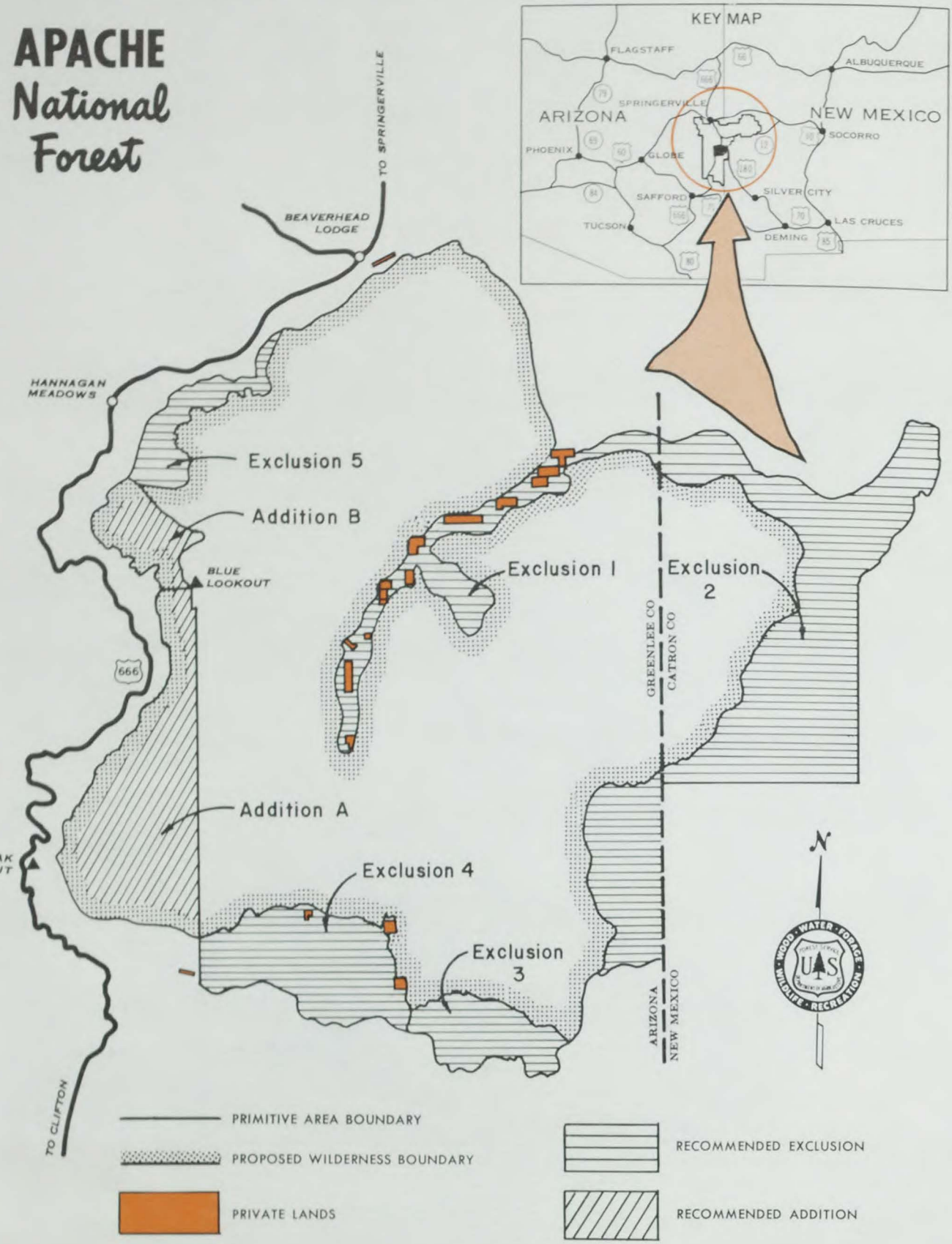
FOREST SERVICE

PROPOSED BLUE RANGE WILDERNESS



Proposed BLUE RANGE WILDERNESS

APACHE National Forest

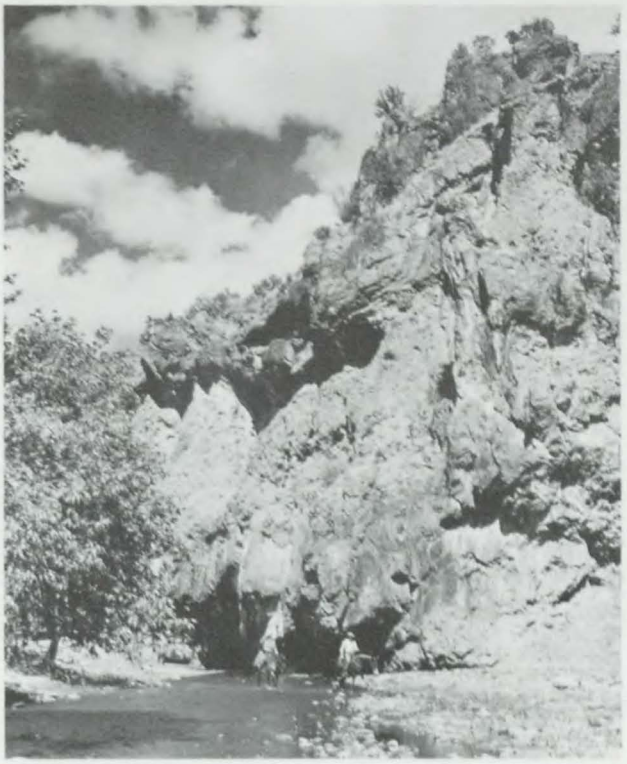
In 1540, an expedition captained by Francisco Vasquez de Coronado traveled from Mexico into what is now the American Southwest in search of the Seven Cities of Cibola. The "cities" turned out to be the Indian pueblos around Zuni—a great disappointment to the Spaniards —but the journal kept by one Pedro de Castaneda provides clues to the route, which probably followed the valley of the Blue River through the area proposed as the Blue Range Wilderness.

The 1,000-man expedition with 600 pack animals camped on the Gila River at the "Red House," perhaps near the present day town of Solomon east of Safford, Arizona. On June 23, 1540, the advance party forded the Gila River and entered "the wilderness." Three days north of the Gila, Coronado found an animal horn six feet long and thick at the base. Later, the main party saw the animals, and from the description, it may have been the now extinct Merriam's elk which was indigenous to the area.

They came to a country covered with pine forests. To quote from the journal: "There are great quantities of the pine nuts. The pines are two or three times as high as a man before they send out branches. There is a sort of oak with sweet acorns, of which they make cakes like sugar plums with dried coriander seeds. It is very sweet, like sugar, and wild marjoram. There are barbels and picones like those of Spain in the rivers of this wilderness. Grey lions and leopards were seen. The country rises continually from the beginning of the wilderness until Cibola is reached, which is 80 leagues going north."

No one knows the exact route taken by Coronado's expedition, but it is reasonable to suppose they would stay close to water and forage. The Blue River Valley provides both and probably was used. Thus, the journal of Castaneda may represent the first recorded visit by Europeans to the proposed Blue Range Wilderness.

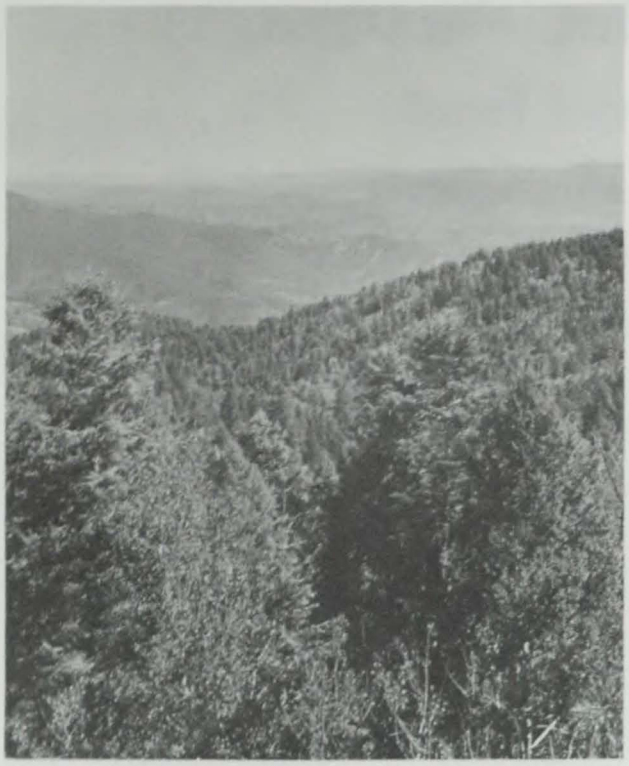
From Coronado's time, 285 years passed before many white men again visited the area. James Ohio Pattie, fur trapper, is credited with naming



• **The Blue River flows past spectacular rock cliffs**

the San Francisco River. Beavers were trapped in great numbers along the Blue River and its tributaries. However, it wasn't until 1872 that permanent white residents settled in this part of Arizona. In that year, the copper mines in Chase Creek began to be developed. The Apaches still owned the country, and the miners stayed close to home.

In the mid-1880's, stockmen settled on the Blue River and began building large herds of cattle. Lumbermen, supplying fuel and timbers to the mines, quickly followed. Post offices were established in settlements near the proposed Wilderness such as Whittum (established 7/21/94 but changed to Blue 11/3/98), Benton (established 10/10/03, closed 10/10/07) at what is now the HU Bar Ranch, and Cosper (established 8/26/14, probably never opened). The Blue Post Office still serves the area's few permanent residents who live mainly along the river.



• **Looking eastward across the proposed Wilderness**

On June 21, 1933, the Blue Range Primitive Area was established by the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service. Under Secretary of Agriculture's Regulations, National Forest lands to be preserved in their natural state were classified as Primitive, Wild, or Wilderness. Wilderness and Wild Areas were brought into the National Wilderness Preservation System by the Wilderness Act of September 3, 1964. Congress directed that National Forest Primitive Areas receive additional study to determine their suitability or non-suitability for inclusion in the Wilderness System. If acceptable, the area would be added to the Wilderness System by Congress. If unacceptable, the area would be declassified.

Arizona now contains five Wildernesses, covering 420,707 acres of the 12,065,210 acres of National Forest in the State. The closest of these to the proposed Wilderness is the Galiuro Wilderness on the Coronado National Forest, about 70 miles southwest. The proposed Wilderness would be the second largest in Arizona. The 205,000-acre Mazatzal Wilderness, about 100 miles to the west, is the largest. In addition to the Blue Range Primitive Area, there are three other Primitive Areas, containing 72,080 acres, which are being considered by Congress for possible inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

New Mexico contains five Wildernesses, covering 679,436 acres of the 9,964,870 acres of National Forest in the State. The largest of these, and the first Wilderness classified by the Forest Service, is the Gila Wilderness containing 433,916 acres. It is located about 17 miles east of the proposed Wilderness. There are two Primitive Areas in New Mexico besides the Blue Range which are being studied for suitability or non-suitability for inclusion in the Wilderness System. These cover 302,772 acres.

In compliance with the Wilderness Act, the Forest Service examined the Blue Range Primitive Area and prepared a proposal for its future management. The public is invited to review the information contained herein, and to respond to this proposal at a public hearing in Reserve, New Mexico, beginning at 9 a.m. on December 19, 1969, in the Catron County Courthouse. Those unable to attend this hearing may be present at an identical meeting in Springerville, Arizona, beginning at 9 a.m., December 20, 1969, at the VFW Hall.

Written statements may be submitted for the hearing record no later than January 20, 1970. More details are given on page 8.

THE PROPOSAL

The Forest Service recommends that 157,208 acres of the Blue Range Primitive Area and 20,031 acres of contiguous lands, as shown on the enclosed map, be added to the National Wilderness Preservation System as the 177,239-acre Blue Range Wilderness. This area would be administered within all the provisions of the Wilderness Act, Public Law 88-577 of September 3, 1964, and the Regulations of the Secretary of Agriculture contained in 36 CFR 251.70 through 251.84.

It is further recommended that Primitive Area classification be lifted from five areas covering 53,102 acres now included within the Blue Range Primitive Area.

THE WILDERNESS

The "Blue" as it is known locally, straddles the Arizona-New Mexico state line, about 23 miles north of Clifton, Arizona; 30 miles south of Springerville, Arizona; and 65 miles northwest of Silver City, New Mexico. The majestic Mogollon Rim crosses the area from east to west, separating the hot, arid deserts from the cool, timbered uplands. The Rim was glamorized by Zane Grey as the "Tonto Rim" in his famous novels. The Rim is cut by the Blue River and its spectacular canyon. Eons of erosion have broken the Rim down, here at its eastern end, into a jumbled, broken, and wild country of quiet canyons, stark ridges, sweeping timber stands, and rugged breaks covered with pinyon and juniper.

Elevations range from 4,500 feet in the southern portion, to 9,100 feet on the north. This rapid change in elevation exposes several interesting and unique ecological and geological associations. Unusual and spectacular rock formations are common. Several small perennial streams above the Rim provide a rare opportunity for fishermen to enjoy angling in a primitive setting.

The proposed Wilderness would cover 177,239 acres, as compared with the existing 210,310 acres in the Primitive Area. It would include 13,488 acres in Catron County, New Mexico, and 163,751 acres in Greenlee County, Arizona. All of the land in the proposed Wilderness is under National Forest administration and management. No privately owned tracts are recommended for inclusion.

RESOURCES

Wilderness

Recommendations for future management of the Blue Range rest on the primary importance and value of its wilderness resource. The deep, rugged canyons, the steep timbered ridges, the sweeping reaches of stark, broken country, the outstanding solitude and a sense of being close to creation make this area unique in its setting. Adjoining areas may be noted for timber production, ability to support grazing animals, mineral resources, or the abundance of outdoor recreation opportunities. Here in the Blue, a pleasing mix of all the resources combine to make the area outstanding as a Wilderness, where the mark of man and his activities is relatively obscure, where a visitor can virtually isolate himself from the stresses of modern civilization and gain spiritual refreshment through self-evaluation.

Limited motorized travel has invaded the area along the Blue River, but frequent flooding has almost obliterated signs of this invasion.

• **One of the many scenic rocky landmarks in the proposed Wilderness**

Recreation

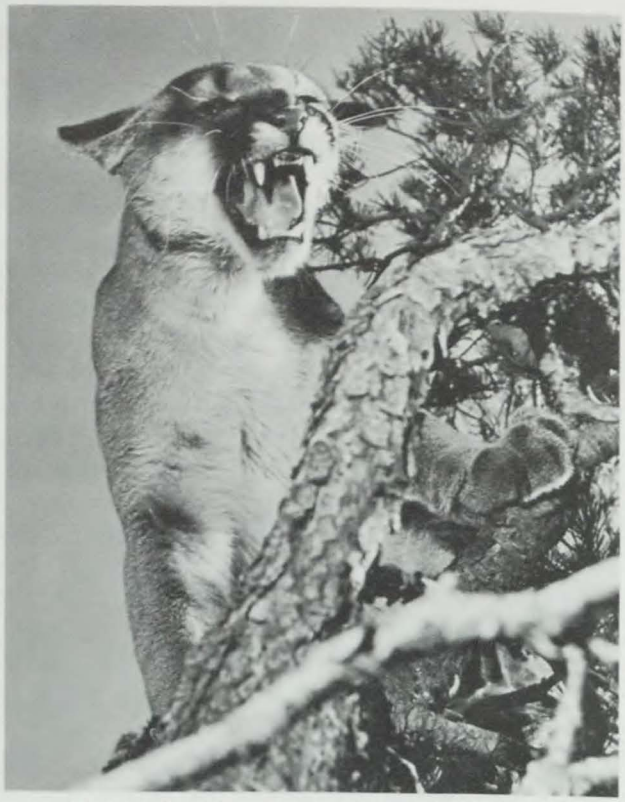
Many opportunities for outdoor recreation are available. About 1,000 people venture into the Blue Range each year, primarily for hunting and fishing. Hunting with hounds for bear and lion is a popular sport. As populations and social pressures increase, more people probably will turn to the Wilderness for outdoor recreation. There are no developed recreation sites and no need for any in the foreseeable future.

Wildlife

The proposed Wilderness provides habitat for Rocky Mountain mule deer, Coues white-tailed deer, Nelson's elk, javelina, mountain lion, bear, bobcat, and a great variety of smaller game animals, mammals, and birds. The pure strain of Arizona (Apache) trout, considered a rare and endangered species, formerly inhabited upper portions of KP and Grant Creeks. The remnants of these have crossed with planted trout. Efforts are being made to reestablish the pure strain, restoring another unique feature to the proposed Wilderness.

Hunting pressure generally is light, partly due to the ruggedness and remoteness of the area and partly because good hunting is available in the surrounding country which is easier to reach.

Fishing is limited to the uppermost portions of several small tributaries to the Blue River. Most are perennial above the Rim, supporting a limited population of trout. The Blue River contains many rough fish. Seasonal fluctuations and water temperatures make it unsuitable for trout.



• **Mountain lions are part of the wildlife community in the Blue Range**

Forage

All or portions of 17 grazing allotments are within the proposed Wilderness. About 1,600 cattle spend 18,615 months grazing within the area. Grazing capacity varies considerably between allotments. Range developments in the area include 140 miles of fence, 46 corrals, 8 earthen stock tanks, 22 developed springs, 5 cabins, and portions of 2 water pipelines. The fences are of wood and steel posts with barbed wire. Springs were developed by installing concrete or rock masonry catchment basins, steel or wooden drinking troughs, and plastic or galvanized pipe.

Management of the forage resource available will comply with the Wilderness Act and applicable Regulations of the Secretary of Agriculture. Grazing use will continue where it is compatible with the Wilderness and the ability of the forage resource to sustain itself.

Water

The Blue Range yields water for irrigation and domestic use downstream. Under Wilderness management, native vegetative cover would be maintained and improved. However, because of the rough terrain, the area proposed for Wilderness presents only limited opportunities for water yield improvement work. Except for manmade earthen stock tanks, only small volcanic "pot-holes" hold surface water.

Precipitation averages about 15 inches over the lower country, and more than 30 inches above the Rim. Much of this falls in severe summer thunderstorms. Severe flooding in the lower reaches of the canyons is common.

Minerals

Since the proposed Wilderness is relatively close to the high copper producing areas of Clifton and Morenci, interest in claim location is high. The U. S. Geological Survey Report indicates that, while some minerals might be present, none are yet in sufficient demand to make their removal economical.

Some lode mining claims have been located in the Primitive Area and on areas which are proposed for classification. Core drilling by portable equipment was done on nine of the

The U. S. Geological Survey Report, entitled Mineral Resources of the Blue Range Primitive Area may be purchased from the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

Some lode mining claims have been located in the Primitive Area and on areas which are proposed for classification. Core drilling by portable equipment was done on some of the areas outside the Primitive Area.

The U. S. Geological Survey Report, entitled Mineral Resources of the Blue Range Primitive Area may be purchased from the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C., 20402.

Timber

Four primary timber types are found in the proposed Wilderness. Pinyon-juniper stands cover 89,327 acres in the lower country. Ponderosa pine predominates on 30,855 acres. Of these, 14,351 acres are considered operable and support a volume of 60,217 MBF. The other 16,504 acres are inoperable, but support an estimated volume of 74,098 MBF. Mixed conifer stands cover 17,170 acres of the rolling benches and steep canyons above the Rim. An estimated volume of 127,090 MBF grows on the 13,360 acres of this type considered to be operable. On the 3,810 acres considered inoperable, there is an estimated volume of 31,148 MBF. The highest areas support dense spruce-fir stands on 2,814 acres. All are considered operable, and support an estimated volume of 26,070 MBF. Some aspen stands are scattered throughout the three higher types, making an esthetically pleasing mixture. Canyon bottoms in the lower areas support several species of oak, cottonwood, alder, sycamore, and Arizona black walnut.

An additional 27,104 acres are covered by chaparral, and 9,969 acres are covered by grasslands.

Vegetation and Climate

The climate and vegetation within the Blue Range vary as sharply as the topography. Semidesert temperature and moisture conditions prevail at lower elevations below the Rim, while typical high mountain conditions are common above the Rim. Summer temperatures may top 100 degrees in the lowlands, but reach only the mid-80's higher up. Winter lows may vary from the low 20's in the lower reaches, to 30 degrees below zero in the high country.

The cool, moist plateau above the Rim is covered with spruce, white fir, and Douglas-fir. Below the Rim, mixed conifers are found on the north facing slopes, while the drier benches and warmer south slopes support ponderosa pine. Pinyon-juniper stands predominate below the ponderosa pine. Browse stands and grasslands are scattered over the area and are found interspersed with other vegetation.

Effects of Wilderness Classification

Establishing a Wilderness in this portion of the Blue Range would not materially affect current administration and management of the area. None of the timber in the proposed Wilderness is included in the allowable harvest volumes for the Apache National Forest, and there is no dependency upon it to sustain current and expected levels of timber harvest. Management of the ranges would not be appreciably altered by the new designation. As Wilderness, the area would maintain stable watershed conditions for downstream water users. No serious forest fire, insect, or disease problems exist. Designation as Wilderness would give permanent protection to the Wilderness resource.

Boundary

Boundary adjustments in the existing Primitive Area are recommended to place the boundary of the proposed Wilderness along more easily definable topographic features, to include areas of superlative wilderness character, or to exclude areas which do not qualify as wilderness or should be managed for other purposes. The proposed lettered additions and numbered exclusions are keyed to the map found inside the back cover.

Additions

Addition A: This 16,776-acre area is wild and undeveloped and is contiguous to the area now classified. It covers an area with outstanding wilderness qualities. The western boundary would be placed along a topographic feature, making the area more manageable and recognizable to the visitor. The present Primitive Area boundary follows legal subdivisions, in part, and is unmarked on the ground.

Addition B: This addition covers 3,255 acres within the upper reaches of KP Creek. It is a steep, heavily timbered area above the Rim, possessing outstanding wilderness values. Better defined boundaries would result from classification as Wilderness.

Exclusions

All five exclusions are proposed because the lands involved have lost their wilderness character by the encroachment of man and his activities. In each case, the boundary of the proposed Wilderness would be placed on a topographic feature which would be at least as easily recognizable as the present Primitive Area boundary. In some cases, the proposed boundary would be much better, both from the standpoint of visitors and managers, since it would be located on more easily identified topographic features.

Exclusion 1: This proposed exclusion covers 5,207 acres. Of these, 1,002 acres are privately owned. These tracts of land were settled in the 1880's, and have been extensively developed as farms and ranches. A road, telephone line, and powerline, besides numerous structural improvements, lie along the Blue River. A 1,000-acre area in Sawmill Canyon was logged over in the early 1900's. Signs of this cutting are still visible.

Exclusion 2: Much of this 29,443-acre area proposed for exclusion bears the unmistakable imprint of man's activities. Roads, ranching headquarters, and structural range improvements, as well as areas where timber has been cut for various purposes, invade the section in several places. Manmade structures are numerous.

Exclusion 3: Lying on the southeast corner of the area, this 4,851-acre exclusion would eliminate land believed to be potentially valuable for minerals. There are many lode mining claims already located on it. Several actively eroding bulldozer roads are located here. The area varies little from the surrounding country which is not wilderness in character.

Exclusion 4: This 11,844-acre area has been severely abused by man. Logging, pole and post cutting, overgrazing, structural improvements and three tracts of privately owned land have destroyed the wilderness character of the area. It is generally a fairly open, rolling country, more similar to the nonwilderness to the south than the high quality wilderness to the north.

Exclusion 5: This is a high, timbered area above the Rim, on the relatively flat top of the Blue Range. It has been partially logged over in the past. A low standard road crosses the area from east to west. Past abuse by livestock is evident on some meadows in the area. To preclude downstream degradation, these meadows must be rehabilitated.

PUBLIC REVIEW

Persons wishing to express their views on this proposal are invited to appear at a public hearing at 9 a.m. on December 19, 1969, in the Catron County Courthouse, Reserve, New Mexico, or at 9 a.m. on December 20, 1969, in the VFW Hall at Springerville, Arizona. Those unable to attend may submit written statemens before January 20, 1970. Written statements, as well as questions about the proposal, should be addressed to either of the following:

Regional Forester
Forest Service, U.S.D.A.
517 Gold Ave., S.W.
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87101

Forest Supervisor
Apache National Forest
Springerville, Arizona 85938

Written statements received prior to January 20, 1970, will be made a part of the hearing record. All views presented will be included with recommendations of the Secretary of Agriculture to the President and Congress.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE

NATIONAL FOREST WILDERNESS
AND
PRIMITIVE AREAS
JANUARY 1 1971

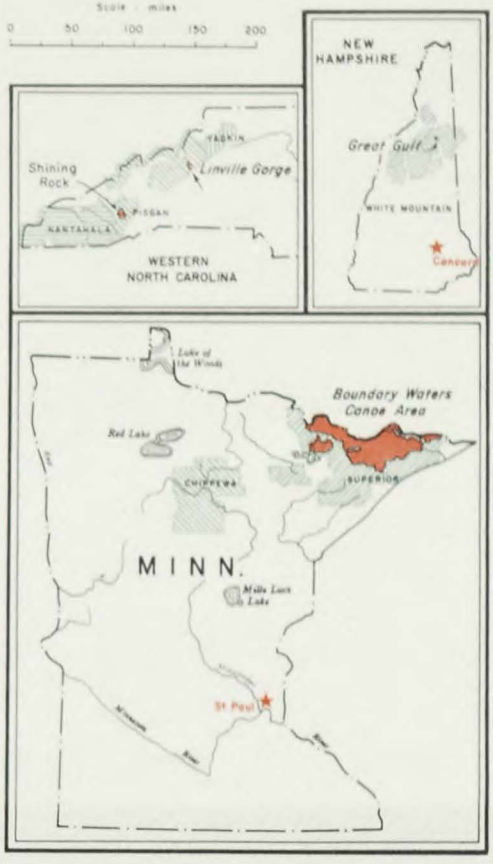
WILDERNESS
(UNITS OF THE NATIONAL
WILDERNESS PRESERVATION SYSTEM)

PRIMITIVE AREAS

NATIONAL FORESTS AND
PURCHASE UNITS

★ STATE CAPITALS

○ REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS



National Forest Wilderness and Primitive Areas as of January 1, 1971

State	Wilderness		Primitive Areas	
	Number of Units	*Net Area (Acres)*	*Number of Units*	*Net Area (Acres)*
Arizona	6	427,682	3*	243,961
California	17	1,595,364	4	221,919
Colorado	5	280,104	6	554,283
Idaho	1*	987,910	3	1,642,388
Minnesota	1	886,673	0	0
Montana	5*	1,482,567	4	417,140
Nevada	1	64,667	0	0
New Hampshire	1	5,552	0	0
New Mexico	5	679,398	3*	335,424
North Carolina	2	20,975	0	0
Oregon	10	762,694	0	0
Utah	0	0	1	240,717
Washington	4	1,094,589	0	0
Wyoming	4	1,780,994	4	586,000
Total	62	10,069,169	28	4,241,832

*Includes unit also located in an adjacent State. Total adjusted.

Additional Wilderness and Primitive Areas are shown on back cover.

National Forest Wilderness and Primitive Areas

JANUARY 1 1971

(Arrow shows location of area described in report.)